

**BEN PIMLOTT:
THE OMENS
FOR BLAIR**
First years don't
prove a thing

COMMENT, PAGE 23

**DOORS SHUT
FOR GWYNETH
PALTROW?**
Ryan Gilbey on the
films of the week

THE EYE

**ANDREW MARR:
HYPOCRISY
AND MARY BELL.**
Greed that has made
few sad lives worse

COMMENT, PAGE 23

**NEVER MIND
'NAFF NICE'**
Kennedy is
back and he's
still brilliant

THE EYE

THE INDEPENDENT

NORIANO
Friday 1 May 1998 45p (IR 50p) No 3,599

Newspaper of the Year for photographs

Today's news

Priest jailed for child abuse

A CATHOLIC priest who abused children at an orphanage over an eight-year period in the 1950s and 1960s was jailed for seven years yesterday.

Father Eric Taylor, who abused boys as young as six and those stood by as they were beaten by others for complaining, was found guilty of 16 charges of indecent assault and two charges of buggery.

Page 4

Heads attack 'beacon schools'

HEADS and teachers yesterday attacked a new Government scheme for "beacon schools" as divisive, elitist and unnecessary. Some heads also questioned whether those schools not named as beacons would be keen to take up the offer of help from their high-flying neighbours.

Page 6

Triple jab cleared

A MAJOR study of children who had the triple MMR vaccine against measles, mumps and rubella has found no evidence of a link with bowel disease and autism. Public confidence in the MMR vaccine was severely dented two months ago when researchers at the Royal Free Hospital, London, published a study of 12 children with bowel disease and autism which suggested there might be a connection with the vaccine.

Page 11

Brown's euro signal

GORDON Brown gave the clearest signal yet that he wants Britain to join the European single currency when he told MPs he would publish a plan this year for Britain to adjust to the start of the euro. Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, and trade minister Lord Simon will lead a campaign to highlight the preparations the UK is making for the change-over to the euro from 1999.

Page 2

Foreigners' assets

The Government yesterday published 25,000 names of foreign nationals and businesses whose money was seized during the Second World War. The money was seized in an attempt to stop Hitler using the assets to fund his war effort. But many of those whose money was seized were themselves victims of the Nazis. Many were Jews who deposited the money in Britain before being sent to concentration camps.

Page 3

Independent award

The *Independent* has won the Best Use of Photography category at the 1998 Newspaper Awards. This follows the paper being awarded Newspaper of the Year and Black and White Newspaper of the Year for photography in the UK Picture Editors' Guild Awards. To mark these achievements, we have put together a selection of winning images from 1997.

Page 19

Business news

EMI faces takeover

A BIDDING war for EMI was in prospect yesterday after the British music group said that it had received an offer that could lead to a takeover. The offer is thought to have come from Seagram, the Canadian drinks and entertainment group, valuing EMI at £5bn.

Page 24

Sports news

Shearer's denial

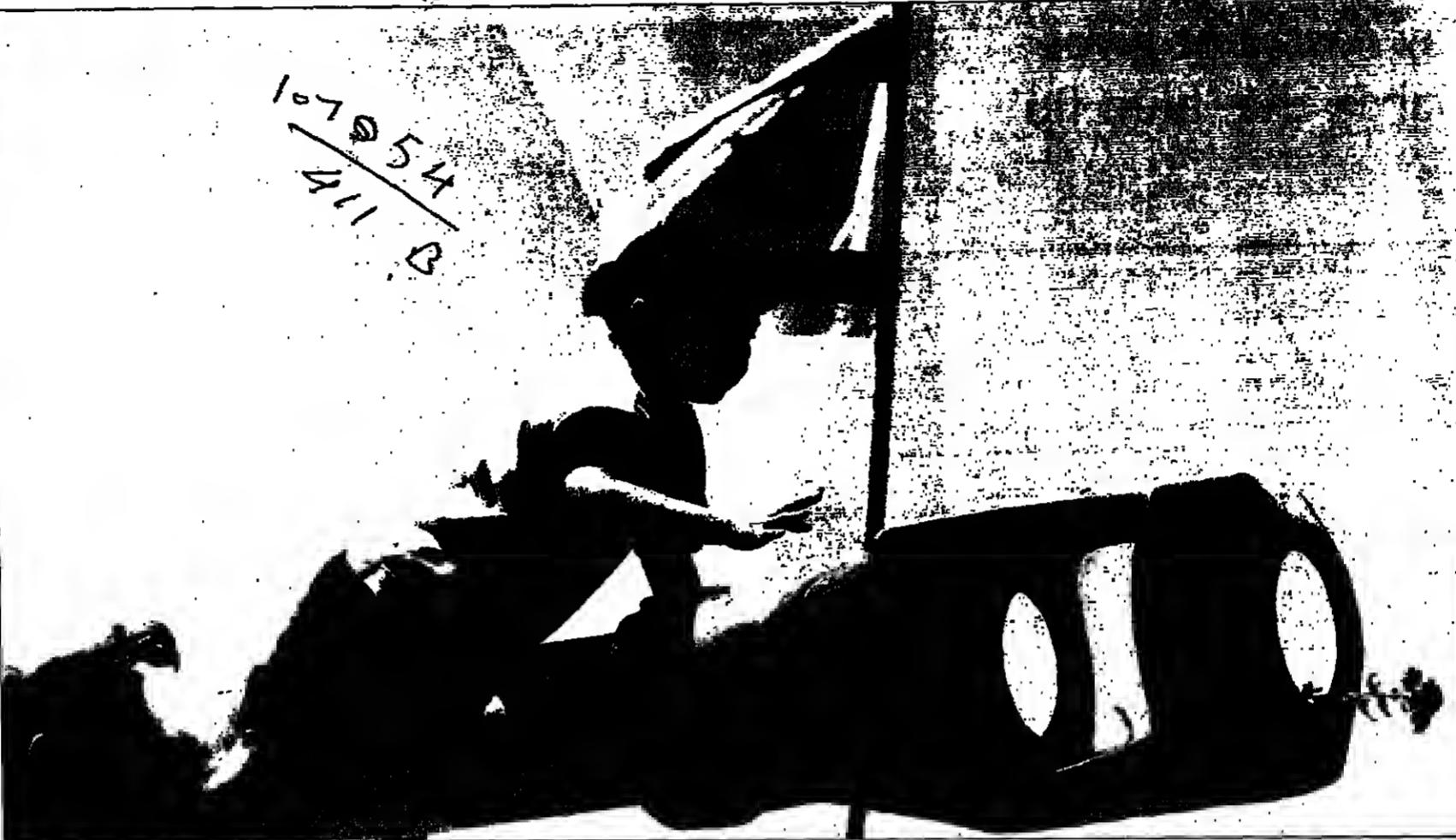
ALAN SHEARER, the England captain, has denied kicking a player in the face during Newcastle United's game against Leicester City. Television footage appears to show the Newcastle striker hit Neil Lennon in the face with his boot during Wednesday's Premiership match at Filbert Street.

Page 32



18

9 770851 946559



Israel
celebrates
50 years
of survival

A CHILD climbs along a canon barrel during an Israeli army weapons exhibition at the Gush Etzion settlement yesterday.

Israel celebrated the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the state with dancing in the streets, fireworks and military demonstrations that included a fly-past by the air force, a naval display and the dropping of paratroopers on Tel Aviv beach.

Ultra-orthodox Israelis objected to a display by modern dancers at the "Jubilee Bells" festival last night. The dancers were reported to be intending to strip down to their underwear. Palestinians, meanwhile, mourned the loss of their land 50 years ago.

Israel celebrates, page 13

Photograph: AFP

Whitehall blamed over Bell book

By Ian Burrell
Home Affairs Correspondent

ing from their crimes in such a way. Whitehall sources said yesterday that if ministers had been told of the book in March 1996, when officials first learned about it, they could have tried to stop the payment.

Ann Widdecombe, who was a Home Office minister with responsibility for prisons when the book deal first became known, said yesterday she was "quite disgusted" that ministers had not been informed.

She said: "One cannot have material of that order of magnitude known to officials and probation officers and not known by ministers."

Officials became aware of the

book when Durham Probation Service passed information to the Prison Service Life Review Unit, which monitors released life sentence prisoners, who remain on licence for the rest of their lives.

The unit decided that the book project was not a breach of Bell's licence and took no action.

In a statement, Mr Straw said: "I deeply regret that ministers were not informed and were therefore not able to intervene. I have asked the Permanent Secretary to investigate what happened so we can learn lessons for the future."

Had ministers allowed the book project to have become public

knowledge in 1996, publishers Macmillan and author Gina Sereny would have been under great pressure to withhold the payment to Bell. Probation officers may also have been asked to advise Bell against going ahead with the book.

A Whitehall source said that if current ministers had known about the project in 1996 they would certainly have intervened. "If anything could have been done to stop payment that would have been attempted," he said.

Mr Straw issued his statement after a meeting at the Home Office with June Richardson, whose four-year-old son Martin was Bell's

first victim. She demanded Bell hand back the cash she was paid for her help with the book.

Bell and her 14-year-old daughter have been forced to flee their home on the south coast after being besieged by reporters. Tabloid newspapers yesterday carried interviews with Bell's boyfriend, who disclosed that the Home Office had known for some time that a book was planned. After the Home Office was asked to confirm this, an inquiry was launched.

The Press Complaints Commission said yesterday that it had launched an inquiry into a possible breach of its code of practice over

payments made to Macmillan by the *Times*, which is serialising the book, *Cries Unheard*.

Clause 16 of the newspaper code of practice bans payments to agents or associates of convicted criminals unless there is an overwhelming public interest.

"We received a written complaint from a member of the public and have written to the editor of the *Times* to ask for his comments," he said.

A decision is expected later today from the Attorney General John Morris on whether there is any means under existing law to block the payments to Bell.

Move to
put violent
suspects in
'leg irons'

By Jason Bennett
Crime Correspondent

HIGH-TECH "leg-irons" could soon be fitted on violent suspects arrested by the police, under plans being considered by chief constables.

Last week, police in Scotland called for the introduction of leg-restraints following concerns about the large number of injuries being caused during struggles in the back of panda cars and vans.

Next month, a police training expert will visit the American state of Louisiana to examine the use of leg-shackles as part of a research project for the Association of Chief Police Officers. Inspector Peter Boatman, of Northantsshire police, said about 10 per cent of all cases in which force is used "takes place in police vehicles.

"It can involve kicking officers, head-bunting, biting, kicking windows out, and bashing windows with their heads," he said.

He said he was particularly interested in examining an American restraint device that is made of tough flexible material which is fitted above and below the knees, locking the legs together.

Prisoners are usually fitted with

the restraint outside the police vehicle and are then lifted into it by the arresting officers.

Insp Boatman stressed that he

was also looking at ways of improving

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved restraint techniques.

Delegates at last week's Scottish Police Federation conference, which represents the rank-and-file officers, voted unanimously for a motion calling for the introduction of leg-restraints to control prisoners displaying symptoms of excited delirium or drug-induced psychosis.

Sgt James Bilsland, of Grampian police, said that "upper body restraint alone is inadequate - cuffs aren't enough... We require further assistance in the form of lower body restraint. We want to avoid risks for prisoners and our members." And Insp Alan Todd, from Tayside, said a recent survey found that about half of his force's officers who suffered injuries on duty had been kicked while trying to restrain a suspect.

John Wadham, director of Liberty, the civil and legal rights organisation, cautioned yesterday: "The police are entitled to use reasonable force to detain people, but we would be opposed to the routine use of any kind of restraint."

Prisoners are usually fitted with

the restraint outside the police vehicle and are then lifted into it by the arresting officers.

Insp Boatman stressed that he

was also looking at ways of improving

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

vehicle design to reduce the num-

ber of injuries and improved

IN SATURDAY'S
5-SECTION
INDEPENDENT

■ Catch a wave
in Guadeloupe
TIME OFF



PLUS

■ 48 hours in
Nice
TIME OFF

■ How to stop
the great
pension rip-off
YOUR MONEY

■ Shiny happy
people: the
beauty sellers
share their
secrets
MAGAZINE

CONTENTS

News	2-11
Foreign	12-18
Features	19
Features	20
Obituaries	21
Leader & letters	22
Comment	23
Business	24-26
Shares	27
Unit Trusts	28
Sport	29-32
Crosswords	32 & The Eye
TV & radio	The Eye



Recycled paper made up
41.4% of the raw material for
UK newspapers in the
first half of 1997.

IRA bluntly refuses to give up its guns

The statement was characteristically oblique – one every point but one – writes David McKittrick

IN RECENT years, IRA statements have often been as delphic as some of Seamus Heaney's cloudiest works, deliberately entwining hard and soft elements with the intention of creating ambiguity.

Yesterday's statement was no exception. The point which at first sight leaps out of it is the blunt assertion on guns: "Let us make it clear there will be no decommissioning by the IRA."

Although there have been similar stark declarations in the past, some had hoped that the Good Friday agreement would lead to a softening of the

standard republican line that decommissioning was only ever conceivable in the event of a final settlement.

The IRA follows its own dogged logic in saying that the agreement does not amount to a settlement, in that this would involve "the end of British rule in Ireland and the exercise of the right of the people of Ireland to national self-determination".

The logic runs that while the agreement "does mark a significant development", the dual referendums to be held on 22 May do not amount to self-determination and the British presence will remain. Therefore, no decommissioning is to be expected.

While this implacable refusal to move on the issue was assailed from various quarters yesterday, it is unlikely to be altered in the foreseeable future, partly because the position is in line with the IRA's own theory.

There are also practical reasons for maintaining it, one of which is that any handing over or destruction of weaponry would probably cause uproar, and almost certainly a split, in the ranks of the IRA's foot soldiers.

The refusal also carries the communal endorsement of the Belfast Catholic ghettos, such as the Falls Road, where majority opinion, while clearly in favour of the peace process, is just as clearly in favour of holding on to the weapons as an insurance policy against future calamities.

The mirror-image of this is to be found across the peace line in the Protestant Shankill, where loyalist paramilitary groups and the back streets in which they spring also believe that maintaining their armaments is the prudent thing to do.

But the IRA statement is also notable for what it does not say. It studiously avoids direct comment on whether Sinn Fein members should take up their seats in the new Belfast assembly to be set up under the agreement.

In doing so it provides implicit endorsement for the direction being taken by Sinn Fein, which appears to be readying itself for a historic change in its constitution and, arguably, in its general psychology.

On 10 May the party is to hold a special conference which will be asked to drop the traditional ban on Sinn Fein members taking their seats in any "partitionist" Belfast assembly. The IRA has just effectively given its blessing to the change.

The statement also sought to absolve Sinn Fein from being held responsible for the lack of arms decommissioning, declaring this to be "a matter only for the IRA, to be decided upon and pronounced upon by us". This is presumably to allow Sinn Fein leaders to say that any complaints on this score should be referred to the IRA and not to them.

Pay restraint gives Garda the 'blue flu'

By Alan Murdoch
in Dublin

THE ANGUISH in Dublin's Mountjoy Prison this morning can only be imagined as hundreds of career burglars, car thieves and pickpockets wake up in jail on what could have been the biggest pay-day of their lives – Ireland's first garda strike.

Public alarm about the threatened strike yesterday prompted the Dail to hold an emergency debate on the crisis.

The country's 11,000 gardai are legally barred from taking strike action, so today's pay protest takes the form of a spontaneous epidemic of "blue flu". The 8,000 rank and file members of the Garda Representative Association (GRA) will ring in sick from 6am this morning complaining of painful flat feet preventing them from carrying out their duties.

It is the first police strike since the brief "Macushi Revolt" in 1968, which wo the right to representation.

Garda Commissioner Pat Byrne announced special contingency measures, with senior ranks and partly trained cadets giving front-line cover. The Irish Army and defence forces will be on standby.

Commissioner Byrne urged

Gardai: "Do not do something that will harm this force for ever more," adding it was "disingenuous" of them to report sick when they were not.

"What signal are you sending out to the people of this country that members would perpetrate a dishonesty. If it is an individual decision for members of the gardai, I'm saying 'Do the right thing,'" he said.

The GRA seek a 39 per cent rise to offset a widening gap with other groups – such as teachers, with whom they previously had pay parity. The Government has offered a productivity-related 7 per cent.

Justice minister John O'Donoghue urged gardai to work normally, saying that to concede their claim would undermine the Government's 10-year-old economic strategy based on voluntary pay restraint in return for tax cuts. The GRA insists it is not a trade union and not part of such national deals.

Liz McManus, justice spokeswoman of the opposition Democratic Left, accused Mr O'Donoghue of "deliberately exaggerating the extent of crime" while in Opposition, leading the GRA to believe he would deliver on their demands.

The GRA executive were to meet last night.

Commissioner Byrne urged



George Mitchell, the peace talks chairman, his wife, Heather, and their six-month-old son, Andrew, on the family's first trip to Ulster. Photograph: Reuters

Prison 'turning inmates into heroin addicts'

DRUG use at a prison is so high that inmates who arrive there without an addiction are hooked on heroin when they leave, prisoners told the Chief Inspector of Prisons.

Inmates warned that drug problems were behind a high level of violence at Featherstone jail in Wolverhampton, forcing

prisoners to carry knives to protect themselves, said Sir David Ramsbotham.

Staff and the board of visitors at the low-security prison believed "there was a considerable amount of drugs within the establishment", he said.

"Anecdotal comments to us from prisoners confirmed this

and it was clear that a more effective programme for dealing with the problem was required," Sir David said in a report published yesterday.

Many prisoners felt that people came to prisons without a drug problem, but turned to drugs to cope. They then left prison with a heroin habit and inevitably came back to prison for a drug-related crime."

Sir David said the Prison Service needed to establish the true level of drug use at the jail, and extend the current strategy of testing and treating inmates for drugs and establishing "drug free" wings for inmates who wanted to kick their habits.

up to a month after use.

Much of the bullying and intimidation at the jail was drug-related, Sir David said.

Mandatory urine testing for drug use had forced many inmates away from other drugs on to heroin, which only stays in the system for a couple of days, while cannabis can be detected

for up to a month after use.

Much of the bullying and intimidation at the jail was drug-related, Sir David said.

"Only when these issues are successfully addressed will it be possible to provide a safe environment," he went on.

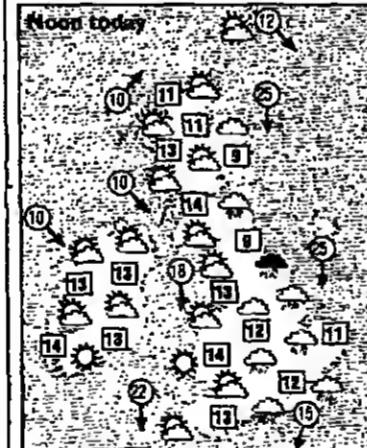
But staff were failing to tackle bullying, he said. "There

was a general acceptance that while bullying was unacceptable, there was virtually nothing that could be done about it."

Sir David said that overall

Featherstone, which holds 600 inmates, was a "good category C establishment with good relationships between staff and prisoners".

WEATHER



Eastern coasts of Scotland will start cloudy with some sunshine. The rest of Scotland, along with Northern Ireland, Wales, and western England, will have a dry and bright day with some sunny spells. The east of England will be dull and may well get some rain at times and fog around North Sea coasts. There will be a brisk northerly wind making it feel rather chilly, especially where it remains cloudy throughout the day.

Outlook: for the next few days

On Saturday the low cloud, drizzle and fog that has been affecting North Sea coasts will clear in Scotland but linger near some eastern coasts of England.

Elsewhere it will be dry with some decent sunny spells and only light winds. Most parts will have a fine day on Sunday but will be rain and drizzle later in the north and west of Scotland. This will remain the case for Monday with rain in the north and west of Scotland and Northern Ireland but other parts will stay dry.

Out and about: with AA Roadwatch

Call 0836 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

British Isles weather

most recent available figures at noon local time

Cloudiness: 0 clear, 10 overcast

Wind: 0 calm, 10 gale

Rain: 0 dry, 10 heavy

Temperature: 0°C, 30°C

Humidity: 0 dry, 100% wet

Pressure: 1010 mb, 1000 mb

Cloud: 0 clear, 10 overcast

Wind: 0 calm, 10 gale

Rain: 0 dry, 10 heavy

Temperature: 0°C, 30°C

Humidity: 0 dry, 100% wet

Pressure: 1010 mb, 1000 mb

Cloud: 0 clear, 10 overcast

Wind: 0 calm, 10 gale

Rain: 0 dry, 10 heavy

Temperature: 0°C, 30°C

Humidity: 0 dry, 100% wet

Pressure: 1010 mb, 1000 mb

Cloud: 0 clear, 10 overcast

Wind: 0 calm, 10 gale

Rain: 0 dry, 10 heavy

Temperature: 0°C, 30°C

Humidity: 0 dry, 100% wet

Pressure: 1010 mb, 1000 mb

Cloud: 0 clear, 10 overcast

Wind: 0 calm, 10 gale

Rain: 0 dry, 10 heavy

Temperature: 0°C, 30°C

Humidity: 0 dry, 100% wet

Pressure: 1010 mb, 1000 mb

Cloud: 0 clear, 10 overcast

Wind: 0 calm, 10 gale

Rain: 0 dry, 10 heavy

Temperature: 0°C, 30°C

Humidity: 0 dry, 100% wet

Pressure: 1010 mb, 1000 mb

Cloud: 0 clear, 10 overcast

Wind: 0 calm, 10 gale

Rain: 0 dry, 10 heavy

Temperature: 0°C, 30°C

Humidity: 0 dry, 100% wet

Pressure: 1010 mb, 1000 mb

Cloud: 0 clear, 10 overcast

Wind: 0 calm, 10 gale

Rain: 0 dry, 10 heavy

Temperature: 0°C, 30°C

Humidity: 0 dry, 100% wet

Pressure: 1010 mb, 1000 mb

Cloud: 0 clear, 10 overcast

Wind: 0 calm, 10 gale

Rain: 0 dry, 10 heavy

Temperature: 0°C, 30°C

Humidity: 0 dry, 100% wet

Pressure: 1010 mb, 1000 mb

Cloud: 0 clear, 10 overcast

Wind: 0 calm, 10 gale

Rain: 0 dry, 10 heavy

Temperature: 0°C, 30°C

Humidity: 0 dry, 100% wet

Pressure: 1010 mb, 1000 mb

Cloud: 0 clear, 10 overcast</

Priest jailed for seven years for abuse at orphanage

By Linus Gregoridis

A CATHOLIC priest who abused children at an orphanage was jailed for seven years yesterday.

Father Eric Taylor, who abused boys as young as six and then stood by as they were beaten by nuns for complaining, was found guilty of 16 charges of indecent assault and two charges of buggery.

During sentencing at Warwick Crown Court, Judge Marten Coates told 78-year-old Taylor: "For nearly seven years you were in a position of trust and authority at the home at Coleshill."

"These homes had been set up to rescue the most vulnerable people in our society.

"You told the jury the regime was harsh and boys

were beaten in an unlawful manner. Not only did you do nothing about this, but you knew the fear of receiving such punishment meant that the boys were unlikely to complain.

"Those few who did know their complaints would not be believed and secure in that knowledge you indulged yourself.

"The lifelong damage you inflicted has been seen during the course of this trial. The trust placed in you, you abused on a daily basis."

During the two-week trial the jury heard of a catalogue of offences at the Father Hudson's home in Coleshill, Warwickshire, between 1957 and 1965.

After the verdict, one jury member left the court in tears as it was revealed that Taylor had been previously fined by magistrates for abusing four

boys at his vicariate in Worcestershire in 1975.

Taylor, of Aston-by-Stone, Staffordshire, was jailed for seven years on the two counts of buggery and five years, to run concurrently, on the charges of indecent assault.

Now in their forties and fifties, the 16 victims who helped secure a conviction are only the tip of the iceberg, it is believed.

At least two orphans who were at the home during Taylor's reign committed suicide, according to Warwickshire police who have also revealed that 10 more former residents had come forward since the beginning of the trial.

Victims told how Taylor was "like a Pied Piper" who was revered at the orphanage, by nuns who admired his status as a former prisoner of war, and

by young boys whom he would reward with cigarettes, money and sweets.

Taylor, who spent four years in a war camp in Austria after being captured while serving with the Royal Navy during the Second World War, arrived at the home in 1957 after being ordained three years earlier.

He would prey on young boys as they slept in their dormitories, the court heard.

Nuns at the orphanage would beat those who complained with belts, canes, wet rags and straps, it emerged, and people who complained about Taylor's activities would be forced to do chores.

Taylor, who denied all the charges, was found not guilty of two further charges of buggery and one charge of indecent assault.

The Roman Catholic

Church last night apologised to the priests' victims. A joint statement issued by the Father Hudson Society and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham, read: "We deeply regret the effect of Father Taylor's actions and will offer counselling and ongoing support as appropriate to those concerned."

The Father Hudson Society has not operated residential homes since 1984 but runs a range of services including adoption, fostering, residential and day care for older people and those with disabilities.

Judge Coates told Taylor: "The boys came from all walks of life. You are a disgrace to your cloth and the church you proclaim. Your victims were not only young but they were helpless; you were the nearest thing they had to a father figure."



Eric Taylor arriving at Warwick Crown Court yesterday. The judge told him: 'You are a disgrace to your cloth and the church you proclaim'

Photograph: David Jones

Football fans held in raids

FOUR people were charged last night with public order offences after officers mounted dawn raids on suspected football hooligans. Another eight people are also expected to be charged. Kent Police said the raids on addresses in Kent, south-east London and Surrey followed violence at the Second Division match between Gillingham and Fulham last month which left one fan dead. Eurostar train tickets to France during the World Cup were also seized in the operation.

The men were arrested as part of a continuing inquiry into the killing of Fulham fan Matthew Fox, 24, from Purley, south London, near Gillingham's stadium on 28 March. They are due to appear before Medway magistrates in Kent on 26 May. One man has already appeared in court charged with murdering Mr Fox outside the ground during clashes between groups of rival fans.

Mardi Gras charges

TWO brothers accused in connection with the string of Mardi Gras bombings appeared in court yesterday. Ronald Russell Pearce and Edgar Eugene Pearce are each charged with conspiring to possess home-made firearms with intent to endanger life, conspiring to blackmail Barclays Bank and also conspiring to blackmail Sainsbury.

Ronald Pearce, 66, retired, from Chiswick, west London, was remanded in custody until 7 May when he appeared before Horseferry Road magistrates' court in central London. His 60-year-old unemployed brother, also from Chiswick, was remanded in police custody for further questioning for 48 hours. He is to reappear at Bow Street magistrates' court tomorrow. Yesterday's court appearance follows a police investigation into 36 attacks since December 1994, mainly against branches of Barclays and Sainsbury in South-east England.

Tube strike goes ahead

GUARDS on London Underground's Northern Line are due to strike today and on Tuesday after last-minute talks aimed at resolving a jobs dispute ended in failure. Members of the Rail Maritime and Transport union have already staged two walkouts in recent weeks in a row over the treatment of displaced guards. The union said guards who have to change jobs because of the introduction of driver-only operated Tube trains could have to travel up to four hours to a new job.



Qualify to teach in Secondary Schools through part-time study

Are you considering teaching as a career? Do you have a degree or are you about to get one? Then here is an established and award-winning programme from the Open University which leads to full recognition as a qualified teacher.

The Open University Postgraduate Certificate in Education won a 1996 Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education. The programme features:

- courses for secondary teaching in Mathematics, Science, Design and Technology, English, History, Music and French;
- part-time home-based study over eighteen months from February 1999 to July 2000, combined with four blocks of full-time experience in schools;
- study guides, resource materials, video/audio cassettes and the use of information technology;
- the loan of a personal computer, printer and modem;
- support from an OU tutor and group study sessions;
- grants to cover the full course fees and the possibility of financial assistance for certain courses.

Please return the coupon below for a copy of the PGCE prospectus.

Complete and send this coupon to: The Open University, PO Box 625, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA.
 Please send me your PGCE prospectus.
 Tick here if you have contacted the OU in the past.

Title Initials Surname
Address

Postcode
Tel Date of birth / /

OU Hotline (24 hours) 0870 800 0305
Internet website: <http://www.open.ac.uk/ou/study.html>

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OPENS DOORS OPENS MINDS

Succeeding in business is just like you thought.
You have to be connected to the right people.

Today, communications plays a vital role in business. A phone line is a business's life line. That's why BT strives to ensure that every business customer receives the unrivalled network reliability they've come to expect from us.

We have a dedicated team of over 53,000 skilled staff maintaining and monitoring the network all day, every day of the year. They are working to make certain that you don't have to compromise on world class service.

Your business can enjoy this excellent service and also

benefit by making savings across your whole bill with our discount packages. These give you significant savings on all your local, national and international business calls whenever you call (not just on selected calls at selected times, as with some of our competitors).

To find out how your business can succeed with BT, Freephone 0800 800 800 and ask to talk to one of our dedicated business specialists.



www.bt.com

BT

لماذا من الأصل



Camping out

The latest buzz word inside the upper echelons of the Government has a certain fairground flair. The phrase is "big tent" as in "there's room enough in here for everyone, left and right, young and old". The phrase has so much of New Labour's political gadgetry, been imported from America. On Wednesday night, the "tent" was bawling at press officer Tim Allan's leaving party in 10 Downing Street. Thus there was room for both Rachel Whetstone, the former special adviser to Tony Blair, and Jane Bonham-Carter, the former director of communications for the Liberal Democrats, plus all the predictable Labour faces. The evening's high point came when the Prime Minister delivered a speech that teased Allan about some of the less flattering press stories that he had supposedly arranged. Pandora should caution the Labour spin doctors, however, before they start flinging the "big tent" buzz word around too recklessly. There is a popular old Australian slander which has also reached our shores, as in Julian Clary is as "camp as a row of tents".

Desert stories

While we are on the subject of tents, the author of a new book entitled *Escape to Hell and Other Stories* composed all his fiction in a "writing tent" in the Libyan desert. Yes, Colonel Gaddafi has just brought out a new inspirational book in which people who live in cities are called "snails", "worms" and "rats". "Depart the city and flee to the village," Gaddafi urges his readers, as if he is still living the nightmare of American bombers targeting his palaces in Tripoli. Still, nothing Gaddafi writes is as odd as the book's preface by American Pierre Salinger, who was once JFK's press secretary and more recently has been running a campaign to convince the world that the TWA 800 was blown out of the sky by an errant US missile. According to Salinger, Gaddafi has abandoned his support for terrorism and is now as gentle as a lamb. Yes, and rats can fly.

Dummie speaks up

What a freakish resemblance there is between our Leader of the Opposition and Chuck, the dummy of American ventriloquist David Strassman, who has made a name for him



self by insulting Prince Charles and even banishing his human master from the stage and performing solo. "Chuck challenges authority," says Strassman. "That's a fantasy we all have." Surely William Hague could not have put it any more neatly.

A change from nightwear

Hugh Hefner, founder of *Playboy*, has finally been elected to the American Society of Magazine Editors' Hall of Fame. Pandora can't imagine why it took this long for Hef to reach this gleaming pinnacle of recognition. But the great man, "bunny" merchant and author whose finest hour stretched into as he penned his interminable "Playboy Philosophy", was very gracious in his acceptance speech. "It takes something special to get me out of my pyjamas," he told his fellow editors. "And this is special."

I'm sorry, I'll say that again

Most people who saw Boris Johnson on last week's *Have I Got News For You* thought he acquitted himself remarkably well in the face of an embarrassing verbal offensive from Ian Hislop and Paul Merton. However, it does seem rather churlish of Johnson to reveal in the latest *Spectator* that most of the amusing "ad libs" in the highly successful programme are scripted in advance. Indeed Johnson compares his return to the Van Doren TV quiz show scandal that shocked America in the Fifties. "The whole thing is a fix" writes Johnson about HIGNFY, including the fact that Angus Deayton is given the opportunity of repeating his lines over and over in front of a prompted audience until he gets them right. Frankly, Pandora cannot believe there is a single viewer over the age of 12 who ever believed this "quiz" was anything but a satirical stitch-up. Or are *Spectator* readers remarkably naive?

Pandora

DAILY POEM

At Kensal Green Cemetery

By Peter Bland

No joke, this weight of stone, these gothic monoliths with granite scrolls, clerics and Raj-mun. Victorian bosses in tombs as magnificent as their homes. Good neighbours all (top race and blood) secure in their Englishness even in death - no one ever reads the generals who'll never relax their grip.

And these

in an open pouch of earth next to the main road, face from sheltering trees - Mr Rainesh, Calypso Pete, Harry the Greek, Armenian Joe, with wedding photos in plastic bags and flowers in cans among gravel chips that rattle like seeds as lorries pass.

This poem comes from Peter Bland's new volume of *Selected Poems* (Carcanet, £9.95). Born in Scarborough in 1934, Peter Bland spent two decades working in New Zealand, the setting for much of his work.

Woman's murder appeal rejected

By Jason Bennett
Crime Correspondent

A WOMAN convicted of murdering her former lover by poisoning him with arsenic after he allegedly abused her for 12 years had her appeal against a life sentence rejected yesterday.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the attempt by Zoora Shah to have her murder conviction reduced to manslaughter or to have a retrial.

There were screams and cries of "no" from Shah's daughters in the public gallery at the London court as the judges announced the decision.

Women's campaign groups had adopted the case as a further example of a woman driven to kill because of violence, intimidation or sexual abuse by a husband or partner. They described the decision as a major setback in the fight against domestic violence.

Shah, a mother-of-three who had been abandoned by her husband, was convicted of the murder in 1992 of businessman Mohammed Azam, 47. She had arrived in England from Pakistan for an arranged marriage married Mr Azam and claimed she did not initially tell the truth because of shame at the sexual and physical abuse she says she suffered at his hands. She claims she gave him a large dose of arsenic, bought in Pakistan, after her husband allegedly took a sexual interest in her daughters.

Her barrister Edward Fitzgerald, QC, argued that



Britain for 23 years to involve arsenic, Shah pleaded not guilty and declined to give evidence.

At her appeal, however, she admitted twice poisoning married Mr Azam and claimed she did not initially tell the truth because of shame at the sexual and physical abuse she says she suffered at his hands. She claims she gave him a large dose of arsenic, bought in Pakistan, after her husband allegedly took a sexual interest in her daughters.

Her barrister Edward Fitzgerald, QC, argued that

new evidence showed that Shah, who is in her mid-40s, suffered from depressive illness and was not in full control of her actions. He said the conviction was unsafe and should be set aside with a retrial ordered.

Giving judgment yesterday, Lord Justice Kennedy, Mr Justice Butterfield and Mr Justice Richards dismissed Shah's application for leave to appeal against the life sentence handed down at Leeds Crown Court in December 1993.

Lord Justice Kennedy said

they found Shah "a most unsatisfactory witness, and her evidence to be not capable of belief".

He said that despite claims of abuse for many years, apart from a black eye, no one, including friends, doctors and the police, had reported any injuries or had heard complaints from Shah.

A consultant psychiatrist, who had seen Shah on two occasions - one of them just before her trial - said that deliberate fatal poisoning of

adults was "not compatible" with significant clinical depression. Evidence from other psychiatrists provided mixed conclusions.

The judges ruled that it was "not necessary or expedient in the interests of justice" to receive the fresh evidence and, without that further evidence, Shah's appeal against conviction must fail. They also refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

After the hearing Shah's daughter Naseem, 24, said the



Women's rights campaigners protesting outside the High Court yesterday in support of Zoora Shah (above)
Photograph: James Horton

family felt "total devastation" at the outcome. She added: "I have spoken to her lawyers and she is bearing up as well as possible." Asked about her feelings about British justice, she commented: "It stinks. It is unfair and it is unjust."

The campaigning group, Southall Black Sisters, which has fought for Shah's release, said: "We are very saddened and angry at today's judgment. It is a setback for all women who suffer domestic violence whatever their racial and cultural origins."

Driver averts train disaster

By Randeep Ramesh
Transport Correspondent

HUNDREDS of passengers on two trains had a narrow escape yesterday after the commuter services stopped within six feet of each other at a busy London station.

Only the actions of a quick-thinking driver of a packed rush-hour train from Margate to Cannon Street ensured that no accident occurred.

He was forced to hit the brakes when he realised he was on a collision course with another train bound for west London which was just leaving on the same track a few minutes before him.

A crash was averted but in the process one coach on the outbound train - leaving for Hayes - came off the track. Both trains involved were operating on Connaught South Eastern routes.

Railtrack - which owns stations and track - insisted both trains were travelling "very slowly" - at the most 15mph". "Our information is that there were no injuries," said a spokeswoman for the company. There were no reports of casualties.

An investigation was launched immediately by the safety authorities, the train company and Railtrack.

Early reports suggested that one train had "jumped a signal" were denied by Railtrack.

"It will one of the things that will be looked at by the investigators," said a spokesman for Railtrack.

The incident caused long delays with services being severely disrupted right into the evening rush-hour as engineers worked to get the derailed train back on track.

For most of the day, services ran out of London Bridge station rather than Cannon Street - with special shuttle trains running between the two terminals.

Yesterday's near-miss brought back memories of a serious accident at the station in January 1991, when a packed commuter train smashed into the buffers. Two people were killed and hundreds injured.

The Health and Safety Executive yesterday published its official report into the crash in August 1996 at Watford, Hertfordshire, in which a woman passenger was killed.

The report concluded that the primary cause of the crash was a driver going through a red signal, and the executive urged Railtrack to examine thoroughly the question of trains passing stop signals.

Dixons

PRICE CHECK **PRICE**
WE CAN'T BE BEATEN
Every week we check the prices of hundreds of Dixons Price Check prices can't be beaten!

SAVE UP TO £70 ON PC PERIPHERALS

PRINTERS
CHOOSE FROM 25 IN-STORE

Canon BJC250 COLOR INKJET PRINTER
Up to 720x360 dpi resolution
Up to 3.4 pages per minute print speed.
Was £165.99
Dixons Deal £99.99 **SAVE £20**

Canon BJC350 COLOR BURST INKJET PRINTER PLUS SCANNER
Up to 1280x640 dpi resolution
Up to 4.5 pages per minute print speed.
Was £229.99
Dixons Deal £159.99 **SAVE £70**

EPSON STYLUS 800 COLOR INKJET PRINTER
Up to 1440x720 dpi resolution
Up to 6 pages per minute print speed.
Was £229.99
Dixons Deal £199.99 **SAVE £20**

SCANNERS

PLUSTEK OPTIC PRO 9630
LOWEST EVER PRICE
Dixons Deal £79.99 **SAVE £20**

DATA STORAGE ACCESS
SYQUEST 2.8GB SPARQ 2.8GB DRIVE
Stores up to the equivalent of 650 floppy disks on 1 disk
Parallel port connection.
Dixons Deal £169.99

GAMEPLAY
MICROSOFT FORCE FEEDBACK
Among new joystick that allows you to feel every move, knock, crash, and bump.
Includes a whole new experience on driving, flying, platform and racing games.
INCLUDES CD-ROM DRIVERS AND 2 GREAT GAMES.
Dixons Deal £129.99 **£10 CASH BACK**

MODEM
HEWLETT PACKARD 56K EXTERNAL MODEM
Up to 600x600 dpi black printing.
Up to 1200 dpi scanning resolution.
Print speed of up to 5 pages per minute.
Great for business or home use.
Dixons Deal £399.99

DATA STORAGE ACCESS
CREATIVE LABS GRAPHICS BLASTER EXTREME PLUS
Get maximum enjoyment out of your 3-D graphics card.
Dixons Deal £29.99

GAMEPLAY
BUY 3-D GRAPHICS ACCELERATOR CARD ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING & SAVE £35
Choose from one of these fantastic top titles:
STARSHIP TITANIC, STARCAFT, BATTLEZONE,
DARK FORCES II - JEDI KNIGHT,
MFT TANK PLATOON 2
AS WELL AS STATE OF PLAZA.
As an incentive Price of £24.99
Offer Valid Until Monday 4th May 1998

MODEM
PHONIC 56K EXTERNAL MODEM
Capable of data transfer of up to 56k bps.
Voice feature has the ability to save a telephone message on your PC while you're not there.
To use the voice call.
Was £209.99
Dixons Deal £89.99 **£20**

SCANNERS
PILIMSTER OPTIC PRO 9630
An amazing 30 bit colour imaging.
High quality 600x200 dpi resolution.
Great software included.
Dixons Deal £119.99 **NEW**

INSTALLATION SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE
You can now have a wide range of PC upgrades installed in your home by one of our expert engineers. See in-store leaflet for details.
Dixons Deal £29.99 **£9.99**

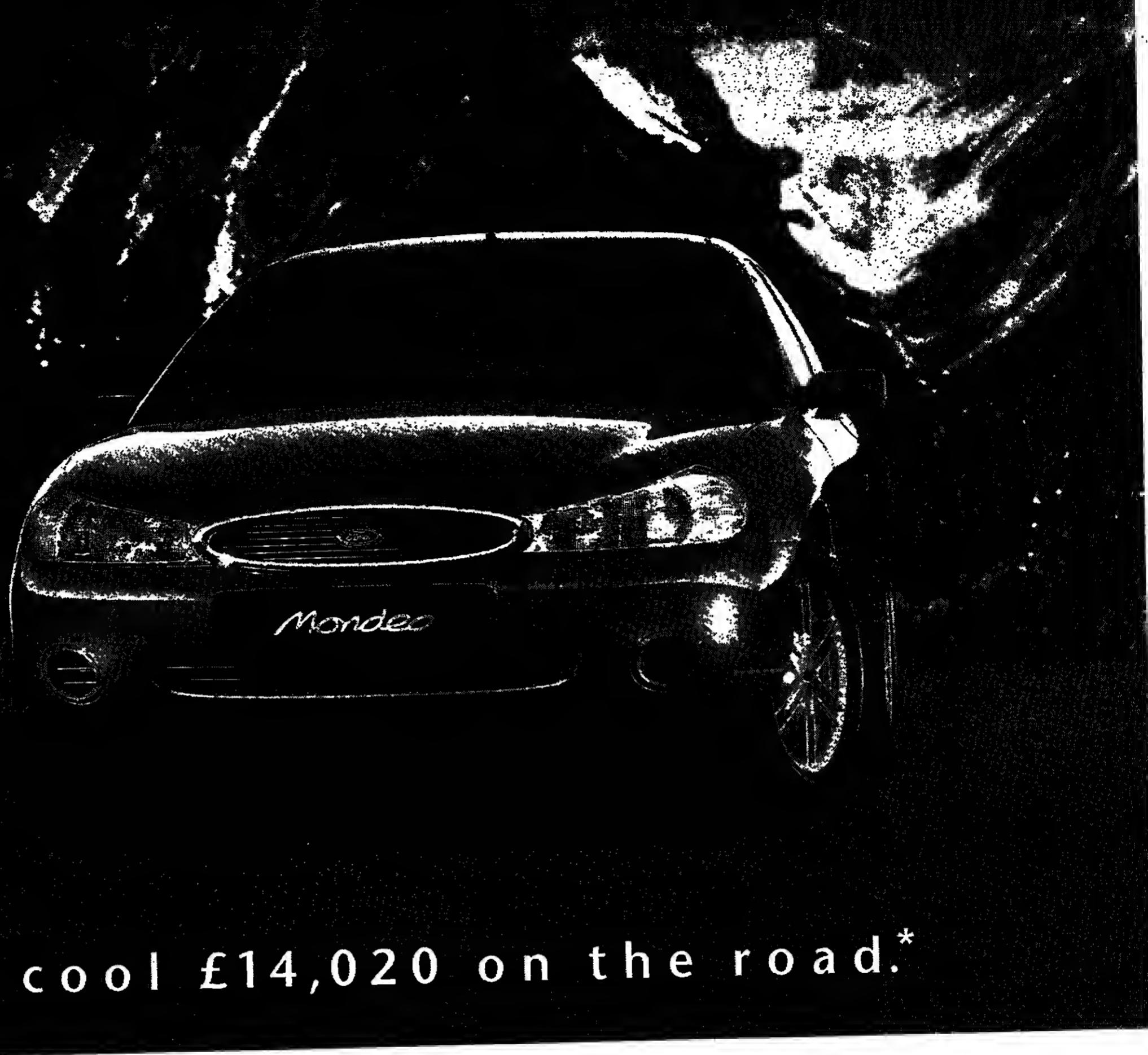
ORDER HOTLINE 0800 68 28 68 **Part of DSG Retail Ltd**

Dixons
There's a Great Deal going on
ON-LINE SHOP: www.dixons.co.uk

هكذا من الأفضل

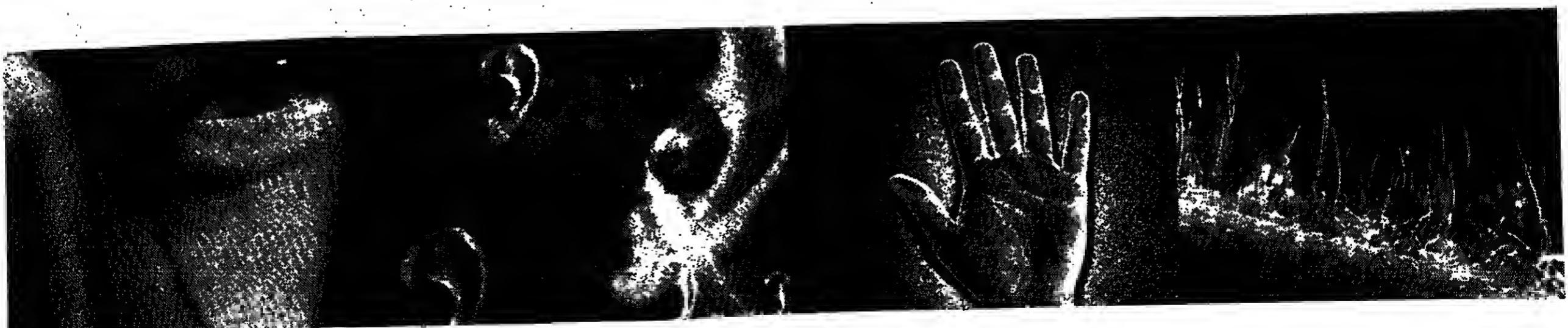
Limit
POLLUTION
to £2/m³
says Bell

The Mondeo Verona with air conditioning.



A cool £14,020 on the road.*

- Air conditioning
- 15" Alloy wheels
- Quickclear heated front windscreens
- Driver's airbag
- Metallic paint
- 1.8 litre 16v Zetec engine
- Remote control central double locking
- Immobiliser and perimeter alarm
- Free insurance**
- 0% finance or *Options* at 8.9% APR**



0345 111 777 www.ford.co.uk



BRINGS YOU TO YOUR SENSES.

*Subject to availability. Price based on Manufacturer's Recommended Retail Price.
**Insurance and Finance subject to status and conditions. 0% finance 50% minimum deposit. Written Quotations Ford Credit Europe plc, PO Box 46, Brentwood, CM13 3AR.
Guarantees and Indemnities may be required. Excludes fleets and certain business users. Vehicles must be registered by May 22, 1998.

Christie's to auction rare first edition of 'Canterbury Tales'

By Kate Watson-Smyth

A FIRST edition copy of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, the first book to be printed in England, is expected to raise at least £500,000 when it is auctioned in July.

The book was printed in 1477 by William Caxton at his workshop in Westminster Abbey and only 12 copies are known to exist.

This edition is the last remaining copy in private hands and was acquired by William, 4th Earl Fitzwilliam at an auction of books at Christie's in March 1776.

It will be auctioned with other books and works of art belonging to the trustees of Olive, Countess Fitzwilliam, of Wentworth Woodhouse, Yorkshire.

The collection was started by Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford, who died in 1641,

and added to by his descendants. Christie's, which is handling the auction, said it was one of the country's most important collections.

The sale includes a painting by Stubbs and a Van Dyck portrait which is expected to fetch around £3m.

Lord Elsdon, the chairman of Christie's said: "This is one of the most important collections of works of art to be offered at auction since the celebrated sales of works of art from Houghton in 1994 and from the Bute family collection in 1996."

"The proceeds of the sale will protect the future of the family and the remainder of the collection, one of the most important in private hands in this country."

The Wentworth family has had the land at Wentworth Woodhouse since the 13th century.



Rare volume: The first edition copy of *Canterbury Tales* which will be auctioned in the summer. Photograph: Philip Meech

£200 says you won't find better value this weekend

What a marvellous May holiday weekend offer from Tiny.

We've taken £200 off two of our best-selling, feature-packed PC systems... and you still don't have to pay a penny until May 1999!

Both of these advanced systems also come with an outstanding software free bonus package - worth over £820. This includes top Microsoft titles, Dorling Kindersley educational software and stunning AGP games.

The Home Entertainment System even has the very latest DVD technology with awesome graphics and movie capability.

Choose one this weekend whilst you have the chance. You won't find better value.

OTHER SYSTEMS
START FROM
£705^{inc. VAT}

PAY NOTHING UNTIL
1999 NOT EVEN
A DEPOSIT

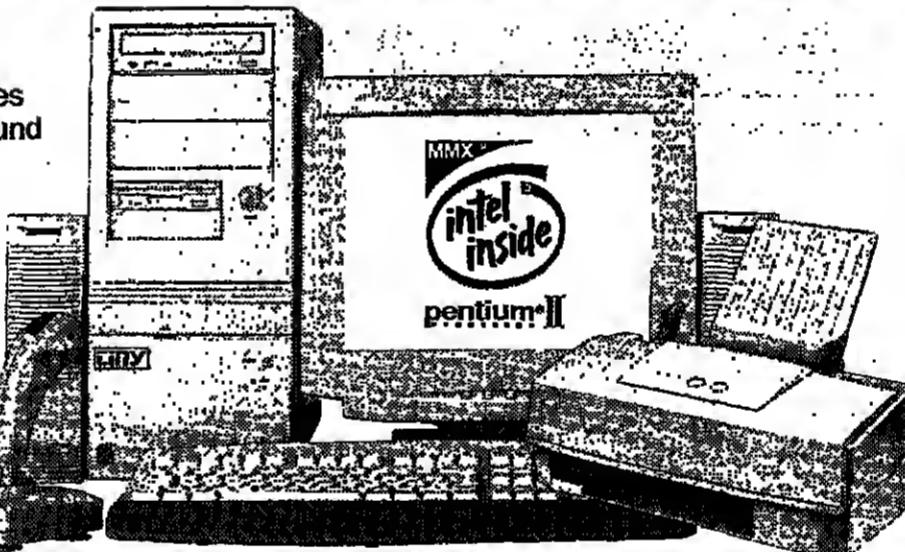
REPAYMENT
EXAMPLE

HOME ENTERPRISE PLUS SYSTEM
PC cash price £1440.55 (inc delivery £27+VAT @ 17.5%). Pay whole balance on or before due payment date interest free. Alternatively, pay 36 monthly payments of £70.35. Total amount payable £2532.60. APR 26.9%. Interest is calculated from day one of agreement. Written quotations upon request. Finance subject to status.

HOME ENTERPRISE PLUS SYSTEM

Our most popular system which comes with high-spec multi-media, great sound and a colour printer.

- Intel Pentium® II Processor 300 MHz
- 64MB FAST SD RAM
- 6.4GB Ultra DMA IDE Hard Disk Drive
- 15" SVGA Colour Monitor
- ATI 4MB Xpert XL Pro AGP Card
- 32 Speed Max CD ROM Drive
- Waveable 32 3D Integrated Sound plus 180 Watt PMPO Speakers
- Voice Fax/Modem 56K bps with Free BT LineOne Internet Access
- Epson Stylus 300 Colour Printer
- Over £820 of Microsoft and Other Software
- Windows 95



NOW ONLY £1199^{inc. VAT} £1408^{inc. VAT}

THE BIG, HIGH-QUALITY SOFTWARE BONUS.

OVER £820 OF SOFTWARE INCLUDED

Only Tiny gives you the outstanding software you want and need for your PC (complete with back-up disks)... latest Microsoft titles, Dorling Kindersley educational software, AGP games, plus - in the Home Entertainment System - 2 state-of-the-art DVD movies.

HOME ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM

Enter the amazing world of Home Entertainment with this flexible DVD/TV System from Tiny - The powerful PC that is also a TV.

- Intel Pentium® II Processor 300 MHz
- 64MB FAST SD RAM
- 6.4GB Ultra DMA IDE Hard Disk Drive
- 15" SVGA Colour Monitor
- ATI 4MB Xpert XL Pro AGP Card
- DVD ROM Drive and DVD Software
- Waveable 32 3D Integrated Sound
- 500 Watt PMPO Sub Woofer & 2 Satellite Speakers
- Voice Fax/Modem 56K bps with Free BT LineOne Internet Access
- Over £850 of Microsoft and Other Software
- Jumanji & Space Jam on DVD ROM
- Windows 95

NOW ONLY £1249^{inc. VAT} £1467^{inc. VAT}

FOR MORE INFORMATION FREEPHONE
0800 783 9813

Tiny

THE BIGGEST PC MANUFACTURER IN THE HIGH STREET

TINY COMPUTERS LIMITED, REDHILL BUSINESS PARK, BONEHURST ROAD, Salfords, REDHILL, SURREY RH1 5TB.
FAX 01293 822 514. www.tinycomp.co.uk

All trademarks acknowledged. All prices and manufacturers specifications are subject to change without notice. Please check availability before ordering.

Goods are offered for sale subject to standard conditions of sale available on request. E&OE. Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks.

and MMX is a trademark of the Intel Corporation. Tiny Computers Limited is part of the OT group. Prices exclude delivery.

60 SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE

ALTRINCHAM*
BELFAST
BIRMINGHAM
BOLTON
BRIGHTON
BRISTOL
BROMLEY
CAMBRIDGE
CANTERBURY
CARDIFF
CHELMSFORD
CHELTENHAM
CHESTER
COVENTRY
CRAWLEY
CROYDON
EALING
EDINBURGH
EXETER
GLASGOW
MILTON KEYNES
NEWCASTLE
GLOUCESTER*
GUILDFORD*
HULL
ILFORD
IPSWICH*
KINGSTON
LAKESIDE
LEEDS
LEICESTER
LIVERPOOL
LINCOLN*
LONDON W1*
LONDON SW10*
LONDON EC2*
LUTON*
MANCHESTER
MEADOWHALL
SHEFFIELD
EDINBURGH
EXETER
GLASGOW
MILTON KEYNES
NEWCASTLE
NORTHAMPTON*
NORWICH
NOTTINGHAM
OXFORD
PETERBOROUGH
PLYMOUTH
READING
ROMFORD
SHREWSBURY
SOLIHULL
SOUTHAMPTON
STOKE*
SUTTON
SWINDON
TUNBRIDGE WELLS
WATFORD
WOLVERHAMPTON*
WORCESTER
YORK
*Showrooms not open Sundays

Lawrence witness ignored for 5 years

A VITAL witness to the murder of Stephen Lawrence was not asked to provide an artist's impression of his attackers for five years, he said yesterday.

He was amazed to receive a telephone call from the police last month asking him to do an E-fit - a computer-enhanced impression.

But Roy Westbrook told the public inquiry into Stephen Lawrence's death that, after speaking to an expert at Scotland Yard, he was told it was too late to do any good.

Mr Westbrook said he was told his description was now likely to be "recognition rather than recollection".

He said he was not approached in 1993 when he saw a gang of white youths stab the black 18-year-old student near a bus stop in Eltham, south London.

But a few hours after being told he would be needed as a witness to the public inquiry in London, Mr Westbrook, a support worker for people with learning difficulties, said he had a number of messages about a photofit on his answering machine.

"I found it very puzzling" he told the inquiry in south London. "I spoke to someone at Scotland Yard about it and was told it would be recognisable rather than recollection. It was far too late."

Mr Westbrook said he saw Stephen Lawrence and his friend Durwane Brooks being chased along the road by a group of white youths.

They surrounded Stephen and attacked him.

"He was swallowed up by the weight of the boys and forced to the ground," he added.

A man standing at the bus stop had commented that "he got a good pasting, didn't he?"



Lawrence: Photofit 'too late'

It was probably because he was black".

He was later asked to go to identity parades but left after waiting at the police station for nine hours.

He and other witnesses had been left for long periods to talk to each other and a woman became flustered after being asked for her address.

Another witness, Joseph Shepherd, the inquiry was told, went to one identity parade but had refused to do any others after an inspector called out his name.

Inspector Laurence Slooe said he used the name to identify the witness. He said: "It was behind closed doors and it was in a conversational voice. If the suspect did hear the name, then I regret that."

No one has been convicted of Stephen Lawrence's murder. Neil Acourt, 21, Gary Dobson, 21, and Luke Knight, 20, were cleared of the murder at the Old Bailey in 1996. The case against David Norris, 20, and Jamie Acourt, 19, never came to trial.

The inquiry will sit again on Tuesday.

Ministers in rift over Dounreay nuclear shipment

By Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

The ministers eventually agreed to sign the licence only on condition that the Foreign Office would take any political flak from the announcement.

Questions about the shipment, when news leaked in Washington, were handled last week by the Foreign Office, and the Foreign Office minister, David Henderson, dealt with an emergency statement in the House.

The trade ministers also signed because they were fearful that a separate deal they were brokering to bail out British coal mines might not win full cabinet backing if they dug in over the nuclear issue.

But the ministers were unhappy at being pressurised by Mr Cook and his officials to overturn its principle that no nuclear material would be reprocessed unless it was later returned to its country of origin.

Downing Street continued to insist yesterday that it was agreed through the appropriate cabinet committee in the usual way.

Mr Battle said: "Questions have always to be asked us policy is prepared but there is no doubt that accepting this fuel contributes to international nuclear non-proliferation. I think this was the right decision."

"I am absolutely convinced it is in safe hands at Dounreay. It is much safer there than anywhere else in the world."

A senior Foreign Office spokesman said: "It was the Government's decision to do what we did."

"It was a government decision in which the Prime Minister was closely involved and which followed consultations with the Americans and other partners over a long period."

"It really is not helpful or accurate to portray this in terms of a division between two government departments. This is a government decision."

Israelis celebrate, as the Palestinians mourn

Patrick Cockburn in Jerusalem sees the jubilee marked with a show of force underlining religious and other rifts

ISRAEL yesterday celebrated 50 years of independence, while Palestinians mourned defeat. To open the celebrations 60 trumpeters blew rams' horns on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem while Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, said: "What we have achieved is nothing short of a miracle."

As the festivities got under way, with dancing in the streets and fireworks, Al Gore, the US Vice-President, arrived for talks preceding the meeting on the Arab-Israeli conflict in London next week. His officials said he was "not going to negotiate or mediate." The Palestinians have already accepted a US plan by which 13 per cent of the West Bank would be returned to them; Israel says it is only willing to cede 9 per cent.

Celebrations included a fly-past by the air force, a naval display and the dropping of paratroopers on Tel Aviv beach. A flight by a Spitfire dating from the War of Independence in 1948 had to be cancelled because of mechanical troubles. Parks were open for free for picnickers and further diversion was provided by ultra-Orthodox



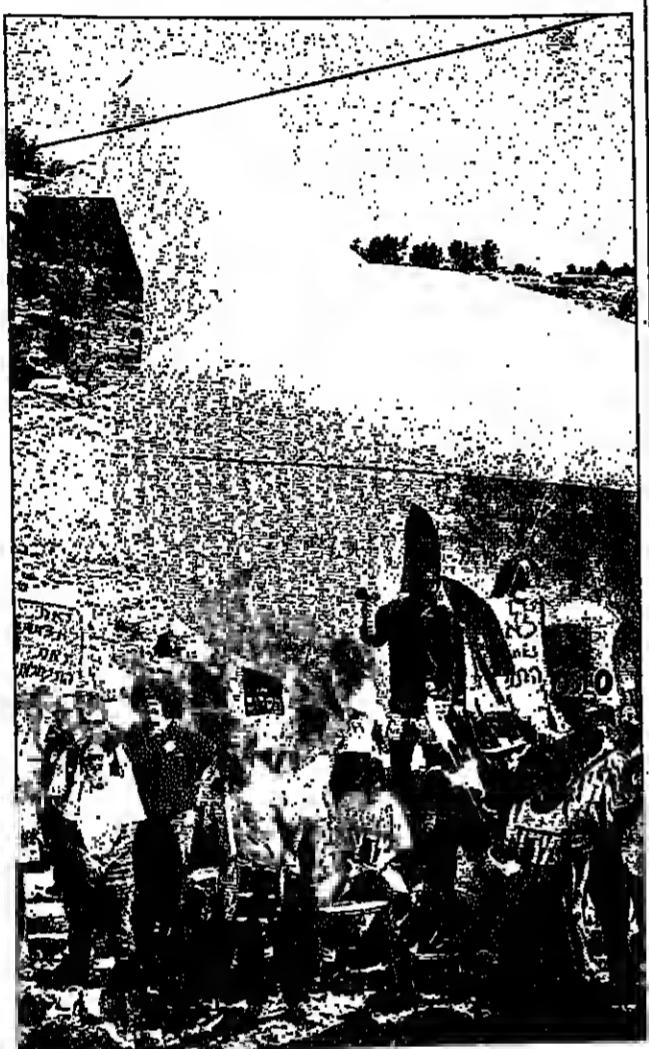
objections to a display by modern dancers at the "Jubilee Bells" festivity last night. The dancers were reported to be intending to strip down to their underwear.

The anniversary celebrations appear finally to have ignited some enthusiasm among Israelis. Previously they appeared to have had more impact in the foreign media than in Israel itself.

Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza are banned from entering Israel while the celebrations continue. Right-wingers were planning to demonstrate at Har Homa, the Jewish settlement between Jerusalem and Bethlehem, called Jebel Abu Ghneim by the Palestinians. Israeli peace activists planned a counter-demonstration. Slogans painted on walls read "Hill of Blood"



Right-wingers, demanding the right to live anywhere in Jerusalem, on the march yesterday near the Har Homa settlement site



Anti-settlement activists from the Peace Now group staging a counter-march against the pro-settler lobby

SUDAN

WE'RE IN A POSITION TO HELP

500,000 people in Southern Sudan face starvation. And attempts to help them have been hampered by air restrictions. But Christian Aid can help. We are getting vital supplies in by road to meet the thousands of people fleeing the worst-affected areas. But more people are arriving daily and more supplies are needed. Help us now, before it's too late. Give money and you're with us. And the people of Sudan.

AND SO ARE YOU

Name _____
Address _____ Postcode _____

I enclose cheque/PO for £250 £100 £50 £25 other £ _____

or debit my credit card. (Access/Vest/other, please specify) _____

Card No. _____ Expiry date _____

Signature _____

Christian Aid

We believe in life before death

Call now on 0345 000 300

Christian Aid, part of ACT International

Registered Charity No. 250003

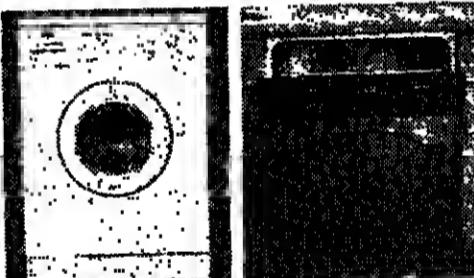
UP TO 40% OFF SELECTED WRIGHTON KITCHENS.*



PLUS

FREE CREA
WASHING MACHINE
AND DISHWASHER**

worth £799 when you spend
over £7,000.



OR
Free Crea Washing Machine
or Dishwasher when you spend
over £4,000.

OR
Half-price Crea Washing Machine
or Dishwasher when you spend
over £2,000.

PLUS

FREE DELIVERY
We'll even plan your kitchen with you
and deliver it free to your home.

PLUS

BUY NOW AND PAY
NOTHING UNTIL 1999

You don't have to pay anything for
8 months, not even a deposit**

WRIGHTON KITCHENS ARE
AVAILABLE AT SELECTED HOMEBASE
STORES. FOR SHOWROOM
DETAILS TELEPHONE 0645 801 800.

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE

HOMEBASE

www.homebase.co.uk MONDAY-THURSDAY 8AM-8PM • FRIDAY 8AM-9PM • SATURDAY 8AM-8PM • SUNDAY 10AM-4PM • BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 4TH 8AM-7PM.
*Sunday opening times may vary. Certain stores open 11am-5pm. Stores in Scotland open Sunday 9am-5pm. Please call 0645 801 800 during office hours for details of your nearest store. The kitchens included in this promotion are: 40% off Aviemore Premier Carcase, Montrose Premier Carcase and Alce Premier Carcase, 30% off Boston Premier Carcase and Ledbury Premier Carcase. The fully fitted ranges in this promotion are: 40% off Stockholm Premier Carcase, 20% off Canals Premier Carcase, 20% off Madrid Premier Carcase and Alice Premier Carcase. Fully fitted kitchens are subject to survey, additional work such as tiling, additional sockets, plastering, lighting and old kitchen disposal are not included. Full details available in-store. **In January 1999 pay in full or take credit. Written quotations on request from Homebase Luton, Beddington House, Wellington, Surrey SM5 0HB. Homebase are licensed credit brokers. Loans subject to status and approval and are not available to anyone under 21 years. Example: A kitchen costing £1500. Pay in 36 monthly repayments of £5142. Total amount repayable £2,076.32 (24.99% APR variable). ***Creda integrated Dishwasher model 47916/7 costs £500 when purchased separately (excluding fascia). Creda freestanding Washing Machine model 17076 costs £299 when purchased separately. Spend & Save Cards cannot be used on kitchen purchases. Products and offers may vary in N. Ireland and Eire.

Roddick brings images of plenty to stoical farmers in an Italian backwater

Calabria scents change of fortune as Body Shop champions its bergamot crop, writes Anne Hanley

ANTONINO PORCINO has 10 hectares of bergamot trees in Calabria and a son who is a research scientist in Surrey. Mr Porcino let his bergamots — large mutant lemons with a distinctive Earl Grey perfume — rot on his trees last season, but would not dream of suggesting that his son should come home to revive the family farm.

"I keep the trees because they've always been there. They're part of our history," he said. "But we could never have made a living out of them, and we never will."

Mr Porcino did not say that to the Body Shop founder and chief executive Anita Roddick when she visited this depressed, crime-plagued region of southern Italy this week.

Indeed, far from giving her a taste of local stoicism, he had some of his over-ripe bergamots plucked from his trees, shipped to a local factory, and hurled into an extracting machine for her edification.

Mrs Roddick was in Calabria for the press launch of the Body Shop's bergamot range, products made with organically grown essential oil from the region. Here, and only here, the fruit flourishes and yields large quantities of its oil.

But the industry has dwindled since the 1970s when chemical companies came up with cheaper synthetic alternatives to bergamot oil, and the wave of ugly, unfinished buildings began



Calabria is the only place where bergamot flourishes naturally

flowing over the thin strip of beautiful Calabrian coast where this citrus grows best. Never one to bemoan the dictates of the chemicals industry, Mrs Roddick came here for her scent.

True to the Body Shop philosophy

she and her team came not only for business, but for the good of the area. In

defeatist as always when on the trail

of a Good Cause, the Body Shop Com

munity Trade division rooted out the few

dogged organic producers, induced a

handful more to eschew chemicals,

and saved the odd bergamot orchard

from the construction industry's axes.

They dealt directly with the farmers,

thus removing them from under the

thumb of a local oil extractor who year

after year have paid producers less. For

now, the Body Shop is taking only

around 3 per cent of oil produced an-

nually "though if the bergamot range

sells well, we will be seeking to increase that", said Simone Mizzi, head of

operations in Italy.

Even at this early stage, however, Ms

Mizzi has noble aspirations for the

Calabrian initiative. "This region has

two big problems: unemployment,

which reaches 65 per cent amongst

young people, and the break-up of the

traditional Calabrian extended family.

We hope to do our bit to solve them

both," she said.

The locals are happy to go along with

the whole thing, though they have slightly different expectations. "It will definitely stop some bergamot trees being grubbed up and replaced with cash crops," said Diego Latella of the Assoberg producers' association from which the Body Shop is buying its oil. "But most of all, it's great publicity."

"It may generate some jobs," said Giuseppe Nisticò, president of Calabria's regional council. "More than anything else, it's good to have an international company working in the region. It's all about image, really."

Mr Nisticò, a pharmacologist by trade and very keen on routing bergamot's anti-viral properties in the fight against Aids was rather dismissive of the Body Shop project, and miffed that the British company had waved aside the region's offers of tax breaks in exchange for setting up new joint venture companies with local entrepreneurs. "But we can create small-sized firms ourselves, by using European Union regional funds efficiently," he said, forecasting an ambitious 60,000 more jobs in the near future.

Mr Porcino, on the other hand, is just happy once in a while to be able to put his beloved bergamot fruits to some use. "I'm not expecting to make money out of it, with or without the Body Shop," he said. "Bergamots are something you grow for love, not for money. For the foreseeable future, I'll be telling my son to stay in Surrey."



Anita Roddick among the groves to be used for her products. Photograph: Adrian Brooks

The Link
SAVE
UP TO £50
WITH ONE 2 ONE*

STAY IN TOUCH FOR LONGER



HALF PRICE

£9.99*
Plus £35 for Connection

STAY ORGANISED ON THE MOVE



CLOCK, ALARM AND CALCULATOR FUNCTIONS
ERICSSON
DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE
• Up to 210 minutes talktime
• 99 name and number memory
• Backlit keypad and display
• Dedicated Voicemail™ key
Model: 1620
Was £19.99

£49.99*
Plus £35 for Connection

TALK AND DRIVE SAFELY



INCLUDES HANDS-FREE KIT, IN-CAR CHARGER AND HOLDER
MOTOROLA
DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE
• Up to 300 minutes talktime/ 70 hours standby
• 99 name and number memory
• 10 number redial
• Can operate on standard "A" batteries — ideal for emergency use
Model: MEMPHIS

£19.99*
Plus £35 for Connection

LATEST TECHNOLOGY



FEELS COMFORTABLY INTO POCKETS AND BAGS
ERICSSON
DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE
• Up to 210 minutes talktime/ 48 hours standby
• 199 name and number memory
• Fax and data compatible
• Small and stylish with a handy flip mouthpiece
Model: PF758
Was £149.99

£99.99*
Plus £35 for Connection

PAY AS YOU GO WITH 'UP 2 YOU'

KEEP IN CONTROL WITH
• NO CONTRACT
• NO MONTHLY BILLS
• NO CREDIT CHECKS
• JUST BUY VOUCHERS TO MAKE CALLS
Model: MOTOROLA MEMPHIS

'UP 2 YOU' VOUCHERS AVAILABLE IN-STORE NOW

PACKAGE PRICE
£129.99

To remain connected, a minimum of £20 has to be credited to account every 90 days.

The Link

*When you connect to One 2 One. Excludes Up 2 You mobile phones. **When you connect to One 2 One. *On One 2 Evening promotional tariff. Ask in-store for details.

**When you connect to One-2-Weekend or the Graphite All-in-One Package. Connection to mobile phones is subject to status and a £35 connection fee. A deposit may be required. Ask in-store for details.

Greenpeace activists seize toxic sludge

By Michael McCarthy
in Aznalcollar, southern Spain

GREENPEACE activists were involved in violent clashes with security guards yesterday when they took chemical samples from the mine waste reservoir whose rupture and subsequent flood have put at risk the Coto Donana in southern Spain, Europe's largest nature reserve.

Scuffles broke out when the environmental pressure group decided on direct action at the giant multi-metals mine at Aznalcollar in Andalucia owned by the Swedish/Canadian mining multi-national Boliden Apirsa.

The company's waste pond, a mile long and half-a-mile wide, burst its banks last weekend, sending 6 million cubic metres of highly-polluted water and toxic sludge into the rivers Guadamar and Guadalquivir and so down towards the Coto Donana National Park with its colonies of rare birds.

The pollution was diverted before it reached the park, but has contaminated much of the surrounding area. Greenpeace complained that the company will not give details of the sludge's precise toxicity, and that the waste pond was still leaking into the adjacent river.

"We want to establish exactly what the toxicity is," said Eva Hernandez, habitats' campaigner for Greenpeace Spain.

"The government and the company are not saying. We know

there are heavy metals in it, but

they won't say what and they

won't give out a list, so we will

do an analysis of our own."

Yesterday, the reservoir was invaded by the MV *Greenpeace*, the group's ship, which had sailed to Sanlucar De Barrameda at the mouth of the Guadalquivir to put the pollution under an international spotlight.

Led by the ship's Swiss captain Peter Schwarz, a dozen Greenpeace activists scaled the 100ft high walls of the waste pond and ran down to its now empty pool, scooping up sludge samples for chemical analysis.

Security guards converged on them from all over the reservoir and in the scuffles that followed, the activists claimed, rocks were thrown, a camera smashed and Greenpeace members threatened with a gun. One of the group's biologists, Pablo Mascarinas, was detained by the guards but later released. However, the group got away with its samples, which will be sent to the University of Barcelona for analysis.

"We want to establish exactly what the toxicity is," said Eva Hernandez, habitats' campaigner for Greenpeace Spain. "The government and the company are not saying. We know there are heavy metals in it, but they won't say what and they won't give out a list, so we will do an analysis of our own."

It was not a moment too soon for the World Wide Fund for Nature, whose Spanish office yesterday lambasted the lack of co-ordination between government agencies and institutions in response to the incident.

France gets jobless rate down to below 3 million

THE official number of jobless people in France has fallen below 3,000,000 for the first time in three years. France, coming steadily out of a long economic slumber, has been creating more jobs than other industrial countries over the past 10 months. In March its unemployment rate fell to 12 per cent. Further falls are confidently anticipated this year. The Socialist-led government of Lionel Jospin claims the credit for the improving jobs market. Other economic commentators point to the fall of the franc against the dollar, which has further boosted exports.

— John Lichfield, Paris

Oslo tables Holocaust deal

THE Norwegian Prime Minister, Kjell Bondevik, proposed a "moral and ethical settlement" for Norway's Holocaust victims that could cost the country up to £38m. The proposal comes nearly a year after Norway was stung by criticism for failing to establish a level of compensation. About a third of Norway's pre-war community of 2,100 Jews died in the Holocaust. When survivors returned from Nazi internment, they got little help. Much of their property had been seized, and was never returned.

— AP, Oslo

Pope looks homeward

PRESIDENT Aleksander Kwasniewski officially invited the Pope to visit his native Poland. Poland's Primate, Cardinal Jozef Glemp, said earlier that the trip was likely to be in June next year — the 77-year-old Pontiff's eighth visit to his homeland since he was elected in 1978.

— Reuters, Warsaw

'Linda lunch' for Romans

THOUSANDS of Rome schoolchildren sat down to a meat-free "Linda lunch" in memory of the late vegetarian animal-rights campaigner Linda McCartney. The children feasted on dishes including potato and courgette pizzas, tomato and mozzarella cheese salads and pasta with vegetable sauce.

— Reuters, Rome

Serbs killed in Kosovo

PRISTINA (AP) — The Serbian authorities yesterday sent police to prevent Albanian students from entering the main university in Kosovo. News of the killing of three Serbs by Albanian militants added to tensions.

The students were turned away by hundreds of riot police despite a Serb-Albanian agreement last month to permit Albanians to return to university premises in the Kosovo capital Pristina that they have boycotted in protest against Serbian rule in the province.

Among the three Serbs reported killed was a policeman killed by a mortar attack on police station in southern Kosovo. Serb police sources claimed the attack was carried out by the Kosovo Liberation Army, who are fighting for Kosovo's independence. In western Kosovo the bodies of two Serbs, believed to have been kidnapped by Albanian militants a week ago, were found yesterday.

On Wednesday, the United States and its allies crafted a mix of incentives and penalties — including a freeze on Serbian assets abroad — to stop the Kosovo crackdown.

Flowery sentiments wilt as Secretaries Day gets the cash message

YOU WILL appreciate the vital significance of Secretaries Day in the US when you recall that one of the chief claims made by Paula Jones, who alleges you-know-who did you-know-what to her in a hotel room in Arkansas seven years ago, was that she did not receive flowers on Secretaries Day - an omission she interpreted as punishment for non-compliance. Whether she did or not (get flowers, of course) is actually the subject of intricate legal argument: one witness said the non-bouquet was a simple oversight, another - that flowers were sent, but she was away, and a third - that she had given specific orders for any flowers to be left without waiting to wait.

Well, Secretaries Day fell last week and I regret to say our office assistant (not secretary, please) did not get flowers, perfume or lunch at my, or the *Independent's*, expense. This was not because of anything she had done or not done - but because I was meeting my deadline, and anyway, I regard the whole business as a commercialised and condescending charade, designed to make up for what is still, even in this land of aggressive equal opportunity, a distinctly unequal male-female relationship.

To my amazement, there are others of like mind. As a certain Joann Torrey said in a letter that day in *USA Today*: "Floral tributes instantly tire the secretary-boss relationship in an uneasy emotional context pre-

suming an intimacy that neither exists nor is invited. At the risk of sounding ungrateful ... what secretaries really would like is money."

IT MAY BE coincidence that Secretaries Day is followed by Take Your Daughters to Work Day, but I doubt it. More likely it is a male conspiracy to ensure a continued supply of loyal and comely Fawn Halls and Betty Curries for the next generation of erring Ollie Norths and Bill Clintons. But wait: it wasn't only Secretaries Day that felt a backlash this year. Some are apparently feeling left out, so some parents rebelled and took their boys along, too - and they got all the publicity. Isn't that just typical? Now you know affirmative action is really on the way out.

WASHINGTON DIARY



Mary Dejevsky

THE US media are working themselves up into a lather of indignation about the imminent appearance of *Teletubbies* toys in US shops. Reporters are digging

out all manner of lobbyists and "concerned" parents to condemn what they see as the immoral, reprehensible and regrettable targeting of a "gap market" of one-to-two-year-olds. Aren't the innocents exposed in commercial pressures early enough (two onwards), they wail; is nothing sacred? As though these "innocents" were not already planted in front of the television half the day, as though child-targeted commercials between children's programmes were something new, as though American schools were not selling their souls to give Coca-Cola and other companies "exclusive" marketing rights on campus in return for a new sports hall, computers or text books. Hello-o-o, as they say here with a particular curling in-

fection, what are these people talking about? Could their sudden distaste for raising the consumer consciousness of toddlers have anything to do with the fact that *Teletubbies* are "foreign", and already a runaway success?

AT THE RIPE old age of 60, Jane Fonda is still as refreshingly disdainful of tact as ever. At a recent UN round table, she had less than kind words for her adopted state of Georgia, where she lives with her media millionaire husband, Ted Turner. There were parts in the north of the state, she said, that resembled a Third World country, with children "starving to death" and "people who live in tar-paper shacks with no indoor plumb-

Clinton on hook again over sex-case ruling

By Mary Dejevsky
in Washington

THE American presidency was threatened by a new crisis yesterday after a judge ruled that Monica Lewinsky, the woman at the centre of White House sex allegations, does not have immunity from prosecution. She could now be summoned to give evidence against Bill Clinton under oath. She may even be indicted for perjury.

The judge's ruling became public just as the White House appeared confident that Mr Clinton had put the most damaging sex allegations behind him. An hour before the news filtered into the media, his office had announced he would give his first solo press conference of the year, concentrating on the flourishing economy.

The leaking of the ruling made it inevitable Mr Clinton's sex life would dominate a major public appearance yet again. But it also brought the "Lewinsky affair" squarely back into centre-stage after a month in which the four-month-old grand-jury investigation opened

by the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, appeared to be languishing.

Ms Lewinsky now faces the prospect of being subpoenaed to testify under oath about the nature of her relationship with Mr Clinton, or even being indicted for perjury. Both she and Mr Clinton have denied under oath there was a sexual relationship.

The leak has brought the Lewinsky case back centre-stage

relationship between them. But Mr Starr is reported to have evidence from witnesses, and photographs, that at least call the denials into question.

Mr Starr also has more than 30 hours of recordings, made secretly by Ms Lewinsky's former colleague and confidante, Linda Tripp, in which Ms Lewinsky is said to recount an affair with the President in salacious detail.

Her lawyer, William Ginsburg, has suggested his client may be given to fantasising, but he also oversaw a written offer of what she would be prepared to tell the grand jury if she were granted immunity.

In this offer, which remains secret, she is believed to have admitted having sex with Mr Clinton, but denied he put pressure on her, or induced her by means of a job offer, to lie about it. This allegation that Mr Clinton suborned her to commit perjury is the most serious charge against him and one on which he could theoretically be impeached.

Two months ago Mr Ginsburg understood her offer of testimony had secured her client immunity from prosecution. Mr Starr, however, denied there had ever been a deal, and his view has now been upheld by a judge. Ms Lewinsky has the option of appealing against the decision: she could also offer more evidence to Mr Starr in a bid for immunity, or agree to testify but claim the Fifth Amendment - insist on remaining silent because she

would incriminate herself by doing otherwise. Any of these options will leave the scandal in the public eye and could, if his denial of the affair is contested, endanger the President.

Mr Clinton had been shielded from risky exposure to the media since 16 January, when the *Washington Post* reported allegations that he had had an affair with Ms Lewinsky, a former White House trainee, and prevailed upon her to lie about it.

After that, Mr Clinton gave open press conferences only in the company of others - the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, and Tony Blair, among them - with less formal appearances limited to single subjects, like anti-smoking legislation. With the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit dismissed last month and the Lewinsky case apparently running into the sand, questions about Mr Clinton's sex life were receding, and the White House had clearly judged it safe to expose him to the massed ranks of the Washington press corps. That judgment now looks premature.

Monica Lewinsky: Decision that she is not free from prosecution presents new threat to presidency

Photograph: AP



Want A loan of £5,000 for just £138.13 A month at 12.5% APR?

It's simple. Borrowing through Phone A Loan means you enjoy not only very affordable monthly repayments, but also a fixed rate of interest making it easier for you to budget and plan ahead. For example, for only £138.13 a month, you could borrow £5,000 - repaid over 45 months (APR 12.5%) - which means you'll only have to pay £6,215.85. And it won't cost you anything to make a lump sum, or early repayment. With Phone A Loan you decide how much you want to pay, then you can choose either how much you want to borrow (anything up to £15,000), or how long you want to take to pay the loan off (from 12 to 60 months). So, if you're over 18 years of age with a good credit history, try us. Call Phone A Loan Monday to Friday 8.30am to 9.30pm, weekends 9am to 6pm.

PHONE A LOAN

Call now 0800 138 68 98

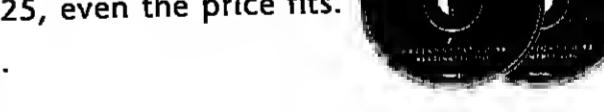
Calls may be monitored for staff training purposes. Rates correct as of 7/4/98 and written quotations are available on request. The APR and repayments vary depending on the loan period and loan amount. Loans are subject to our assessment of your ability to meet repayments. Yorkshire Bank PLC, Registered No. 117413 England. Registered Office: 20 Merton Way, Leeds LS2 8NZ.

YORKSHIRE BANK

INDOS



At £125, even the price fits.



Who would have believed it? 230 years, 32 volumes, 44,000,000 words and 72,000 articles, all squeezed onto two convenient CDs. Well, we've done it. And at just £125, even the price fits perfectly. What's more, we've even found room for some of the most exciting multimedia around. There are over 8,000 photos and illustrations, and many

video, animation and audio files along with 15,000 related Internet links. To order your Britannica CD 98 Multimedia Edition call 0800 282 433, email ebrt@elb.co.uk or pop into your local bookshop or computer retailer. Of course, if all this technology just isn't you, rest assured our famous printed set is still available.



© 1998 Encyclopaedia Britannica Inc. Encyclopaedia Britannica and Britannica are registered trademarks of Encyclopaedia Britannica International Ltd.

BIND05056A

WE'RE NO DIFFERENT
FROM OTHER
MANUFACTURERS.
WE'LL ONLY SHOW OUR
CAR'S BEST SIDE.

THE NEW LOOK
CITROËN
Xantia



STYLE



Take a good look at our car.
We've spent years doing nothing
else. Yet the Xantia's distinctive
new look is only one side of the
story. Look a little closer and
you'll find over one hundred others.

Safety levels that exceed

European side impact legislation, planned for the year
2003. Auto adaptive transmission, combining the
pleasure of manual driving with the ease of an automatic.
Eight engine variations including the 3.0i 24 valve V6,
2.1 Turbo Diesel and 2.0i Turbo. Not to mention all the
little things, such as rain sensitive automatic
windscreen wipers and air conditioning. In short, we
believe we couldn't have made a better car. Drive
one and we think you'll share the same point of view.

NOTHING MOVES YOU LIKE A CITROËN.



SAFETY



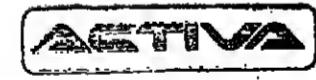
VERSATILITY



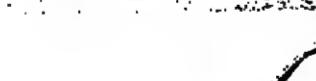
POWER



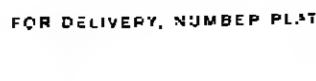
COMFORT



ACTIVA



NEW TECHNOLOGY



هذا من الأصل



THIS COUPON FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE NEW LOOK CITROËN XANTIA TO: DEPT 667100, CITROËN UK LTD, FREEPOST, LONDON N4 1BR. MR/MRS/MISS/Ms INITIALS _____ SURNAME _____ ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

MODEL

REG. LETTER

REPLACEMENT DATE: MONTH YEAR

TO BE PURCHASED: NEW USED

COMPANY PRIVATE

PETROL DIESEL

SALOON ESTATE

IF CAR MAKE

EU visionaries enter the euro zone

Experts have warned the European Commission to expect mass confusion as 290 million people experience a currency revolution

By Katherine Butler
in Brussels

EFFORTS to end the deadlock over the nationality of the man who will take charge of the future European Central Bank are failing to mask a widening rift between France and Germany on the eve of the launch of Emu.

Yesterday, as workmen at the European Union headquarters hammered flagpoles into place and television satellite vans began to arrive for this weekend's summit it seemed that the French, by refusing to withdraw a challenge to the German-backed Dutch candidate, would plunge a truly historic moment into an unseemly crisis.

The summit will set the seal on the most momentous decision in Europe's post-war history. Eleven national currencies including the French franc, the German mark and the Spanish peseta will be abandoned for a new economic unity invested in one money, the euro.

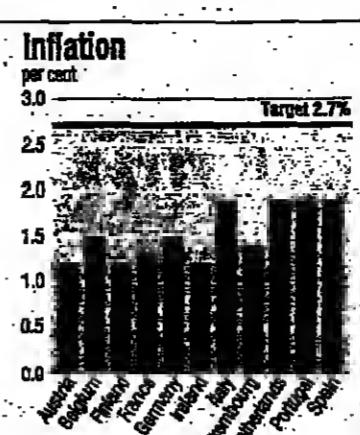
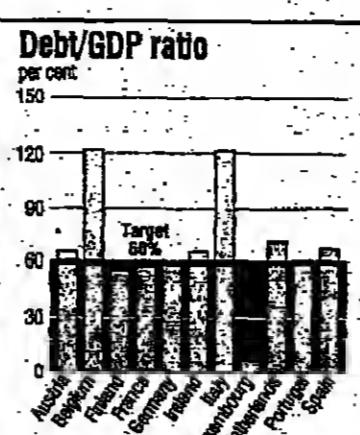
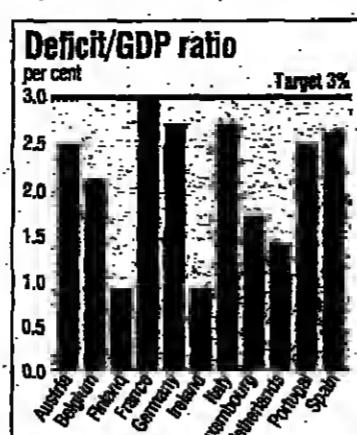
Tomorrow heads of government

will formalise the creation of the euro zone and confirm that 11 countries – all but Britain, Denmark, Sweden and Greece – are ready to enter it from January. From tomorrow night, when even the bilateral conversion rates to apply from 1 January 1999 will be decided, the economic and political destinies of the participants will be intertwined more closely than ever before.

It falls to Tony Blair, because Britain has the EU presidency, to confront the French and end the feud over the Central Bank. In The Netherlands today Mr Blair and the Dutch Prime Minister, Wim Kok, will try to agree a strategy to allow the French President, Jacques Chirac, to back down and save face.

Whatever the outcome, the row has exposed rifts which some fear could undermine credibility in the new money and tear Emu asunder.

Together Bonn and Paris have taken Europe to the launch pad of this unparalleled experiment. Yet the German and French visions of how



Because of the draconian conditions set by the Bundesbank, a budgetary strait-jacket will be tied around the zone, robbing governments of much of their economic sovereignty.

But then Emu was always a political wolf in economic clothing. Founded on a bargain struck by French and German visionaries it is being served up as a logical extension of the single market, which will cut costs, help Europe to rival America, spur growth, promote investment and create jobs.

Whether Emu delivers on any of these promises cannot be known yet, but the journey will force the participants into closer political links. But failure to settle the European Central Bank dispute tomorrow will invite claims that the project is unsound because its management will always be at the mercy of conflicting political demands.

The ECB disagreement is also symptomatic of a worrying source of future tension over budgetary discipline and the German obsession with

ensuring that the euro will be as strong as the old Deutschmark. The wedge between France and Germany on this emerged over the stability pact, a mechanism to punish reckless finances.

Now Bonn wants to go further to soothe the fears of Germans about giving up the mark. The Germans want a commitment to a freeze on tax cuts and public spending until everyone is running a healthy surplus.

The biggest problem with this is the French. Their leaders may sign up to budgetary stability but implementing it in a country where governments have traditionally intervened in the economy to create jobs or cushion shocks will be a different matter.

Perhaps of most concern is the extent to which public support for the Euro is still lukewarm. But public opinion has never stopped the EU visionaries. Their dream is within grasp. Whether the price of that dream is too high for ordinary citizens to pay may not be known for years. By then it will be too late to turn back.

A member in all but name

By Rupert Cornwell

BRITAIN may be standing aloof from the launch of the euro on 1 January next year. But it will not escape the consequences of potentially the most far-reaching step towards European unity since the Rome treaty setting up the original European Economic Community in 1957.

Though the Government says sterling will not be joining the single currency until the next Parliament – at the earliest not until 2002 and perhaps not before 2004 if the logic of this week's Treasury Select Committee is borne out – it will long since have become a *fait accompli* for business and finance, and perhaps for the ordinary consumer in the United Kingdom as well.

Behind the scenes, no one has worked harder than the Bank of England to help the City adapt to the new reality of a currency representing 11 countries that add up to what will be, barring the United States, the largest economy in the world. The consequences for the London foreign exchange market, the biggest in world, will be profound.

Leading British companies meanwhile are starting to convert their accounts to the euro. Sainsbury, the supermarket chain, plans to accept euro coins and banknotes when they begin to circulate in 2002. By the backdoor, whatever decision the Government takes, the euro will gradually enter British lives.

Given the weight of public opinion against UK membership of the single currency – steady at some 60 per cent of the electorate despite the more pro-European rhetoric of the Government – Mr Blair had little choice but to adopt a wait-

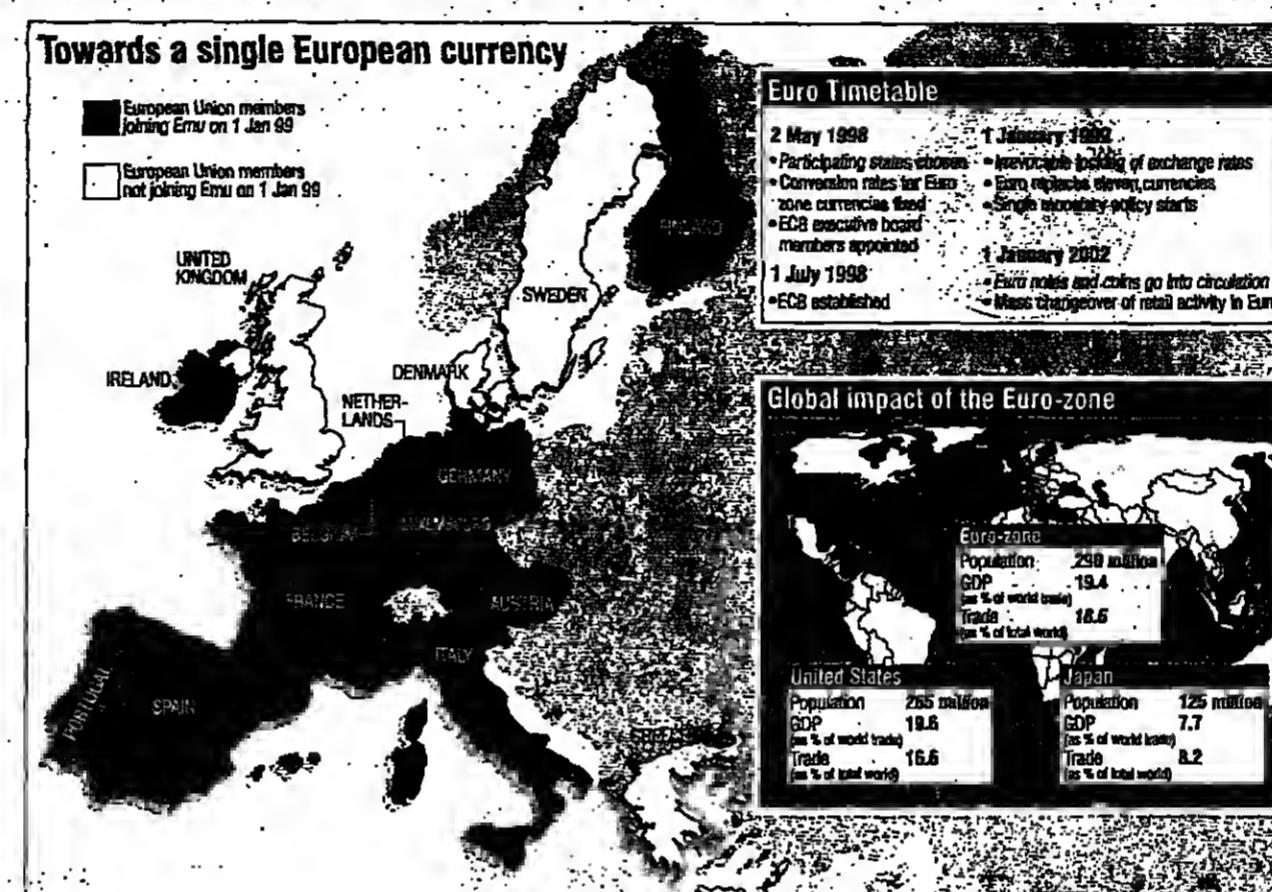
and-see policy. But this may make the task of economic management even harder.

In policy terms, Britain is excluded from membership of Euro-X, the single currency club to be set up this month or next, which will meet informally on the margins of Ecofin, the regular sessions of EU finance ministers. In theory, Euro-X will confine itself to matters pertaining to the currency union. But its real influence will only emerge over time. Britain's fear is that in practice it could become the EU's main economic policymaking body, in which Britain's voice will be unheard. If so, then Mr Blair's promise to put Britain "at the heart of Europe" would have an even hollower ring.

Similarly, while it remains outside the single currency, Britain will have no board seat on the European Central Bank, guardian of the euro and bound to become the single most powerful organisation in the EU.

Most crucial of all will be the performance of the single currency. The Chancellor, the Bank of England and British industry will pray for a "hard" euro in which the markets have confidence and whose exchange rate would not further erode the competitiveness of sterling.

A weak euro could produce a flight of capital into the dollar, the Swiss franc and the pound. This would only make life more uncomfortable for British exporters.



They're in – but can they stay the course?

By Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

THIS weekend's summit will be a political event. Uncertainties about the economic success or failure of monetary union lie in the more distant future. After all the earlier fuss about which countries would clear the hurdles set by the Maastricht Treaty, it has been obvious for months that the single currency would start with 11 members, Greece the only wannabe that would not make the grade.

The official reports from the European Commission and European Monetary Institute, intended to pass judgement on which countries met the criteria set out in the Maastricht Treaty, turned out to be formalities. After heroic struggles, the would-be members hit most of the targets and little fudge was needed to sweeten the verdict.

In fact, only Italy and Belgium missed one criterion by a long way. Both have national debts relative to their GDP that are

about double the Maastricht ceiling. It could take decades for both countries to reduce their debt burdens to acceptable levels, but politically neither could have been excluded from Emu until 2030 or beyond.

Yet the fact that the first-wave members managed to clamber over the Maastricht hurdles has only concentrated attention on the long-term economic prospects – or dangers. One question is how long the participants can keep up the tough budget discipline imposed on them by the treaty. With high unemployment, a rapidly rising pensions burden and an array of spending cuts and tax increases introduced to meet the Emu deadline likely to be reversed, it is hard to believe the political will to keep government deficits below 3 per cent of GDP will prove strong.

The big members will find it hardest. For smaller countries like Spain and Ireland whose economies are booming, and will boom even more when they reduce their borrowing costs to German levels, there will

be little pain in fiscal discipline. For the wheezing German and French economies, more leanness and discipline is going to hurt. The Germans insist it is what they want anyway, and would favour a tougher stability pact – the post-launch budget corset, involving fines for profligate governments.

The French do not, and the financial markets are poised for both political tension between the two Euro-behemots and a surge in government spending.

An even more important long-term question mark hangs over how well the member economies will adjust to marching in lock-step with each other. The answer depends on whether they can replace the ability to adjust exchange rates and interest rates with other forms of flexibility. Many economists have their doubts about this flexibility being a dirty word across much of the Continent. Productivity gains by European industries are one of the economic prizes offered by the single currency, but only the fittest member countries will win.

IRELAND, whose place as a founding member of the single currency will be confirmed tomorrow, will be the litmus test for Britain's decision on joining, many economists believe.

The dilemmas now faced by the Irish also provide a good example of how divergences in the economic make-up of the single currency zone could make the project deeply unpopular to implement.

Unlike Britain, Ireland has never been through the political convulsions on Europe which tore apart the Tories.

A Euro-friendly electorate and political consensus on monetary union led the government to decide some years ago that with or without the United Kingdom, the Republic's biggest trading partner, Ireland's place was on the inside.

Ireland meets all the qualifying criteria laid down by the Maastricht treaty thanks to sound management of the finances, industrial peace and a booming economy which is out of step with the Continent.

It is one of the few candidate countries to have achieved a budgetary surplus. Yet high growth and the creeping inflation which has come on the tail of the Celtic Tiger is already bringing Ireland into conflict with its Euro-zone partners.

Come January 1999 Ireland's interest rates will have to be cut to German levels. Yet this is the last thing Ireland needs when by the end of next year it will have the highest inflation in the EU after Greece.

The Irish authorities got the first taste of life post-euro last month when the government came under pressure to revalue the punt and was then ordered

to take immediate action to tackle inflation.

In practice this means that at a time when spiralling house prices are fuelling demands from teachers and nurses for wage increases and cuts to ease the burden of income tax, the government is being told to freeze spending and put tax cuts on hold in the interests of the stability underpinning the euro.

Different economic structures, cultures and historical legacies are cause for immense concern throughout the euro area in light of the one-size-fits-all monetary policy about to be imposed.

How will vast swathes of the continent respond in the same way to the same economic medicine when such differences in things like pay, social security, demography, and labour market regulation persist?

For the Brussels planners, the answer is that a federal military policy will help to iron out the boom and bust cyclical movements while closer coordination on tax and spending will operate in parallel.

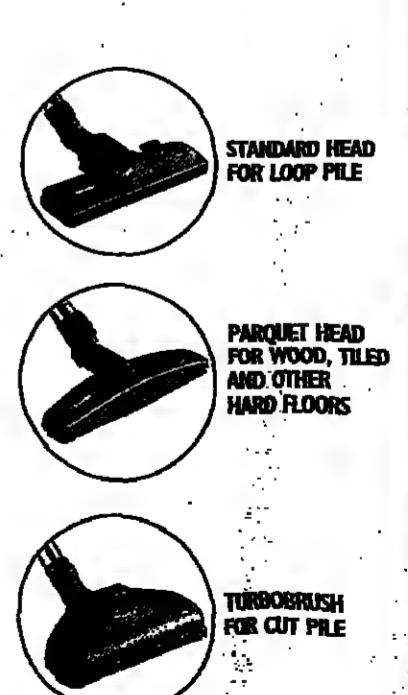
And we are seeing signs that the prospect of Emu is having an electro-shock effect on the most entrenched economic forcing governments and companies in France, Belgium and Germany to adopt the "Anglo-Saxon" style hire-and-fire labour model which Britain and Ireland have already embraced.

LOOP PILE
CUT PILE
HARD FLOORS
CYLINDER
OR UPRIGHT
? CYLINDER
OR UPRIGHT

MIELE HAS
The Solution!
TO THE GREAT FLOOR PUZZLE

Your home may have a mixture of carpets, rugs and hard floors, but do you realise that they each require different vacuuming methods? It's not a question of upright or cylinder – it's the floorhead and suction that matter. The Miele Solution, supplied with three floorheads and on-board tools, provides the cleaner that does it all. Add to that its 1500 watt motor which gives it bags of suction, the cleanliness and convenience of the self sealing dustbag, and you'll soon come to realise that, whatever the floor covering, there is only one Solution.

For details of local Miele stockists call (during office hours) 01235 554455 Brochure line (24 hr) 01235 554488



Miele
Anything else is a compromise

مذا من الأصل

SINCE The Independent was launched eleven years ago, pictures have been the key to our identity. We have always strived to have imaginative, innovative photographs and it is now one of our most famous hallmarks – and one which the newspaper industry has recognised three times this year alone. This week the paper picked up its latest prize – the Best Use of Photography award in the 1998 Newspaper Awards.

Open to all newspapers, national and regional, the entries were judged for content and reproduction. The panel of industry judges said: "The Independent's combination of outstanding photography and sensitivity and the imaginative use of photographs within the newspaper were unmatched. Highly visual events such as the Princess of Wales' funeral were powerfully expressed, with images a dominant contributor to the editorial coverage. The bold use of photography has characterised this title over the last year, and makes it a clear leader in the field."

David Swarborough, *The Independent's* picture editor, explains how he and his team of photographers stand out from the rest of the pack:

"This latest commendation recognises that not only are our photographs outstanding, but the way in which they are used on the page gives them an unrivalled impact."

"Take Nicola Kurtz's photograph of Red Indian John Black Feather on a trip to Loodoo. No other national newspaper would allow a picture, spreading across eight columns, to dominate the front page like that."

"The photograph was effectively the day's splash. We are saying that it is the most original and fresh thing in the paper. And as such, the best way to attract readers."

"Things have changed over the years, of course. Many people thought that a paper known for its use of black and white photography would not adapt to the introduction of colour. Clearly they have been proved wrong. At one stage we used a lot of menacing weather scenes, but we have moved on from that because keeping things fresh is a real priority."

"Our photographers tend to work away from the pack. They try to get a different take on the day's events by careful observation. The last thing I want to see is a snapshot, or the same picture everyone else has got. Photographers have to be flexible. It is not every day that we are going to get a royal wedding or a funeral. A dull event needs to be made into something special. Tom Pilston's picture of Michael Heseltine is one example of this. It completely sums up the scale of the Conservatives' defeat, while producing a really different, fresh image. This photograph has everything. It is humorous, imaginative and speaks volumes. It is also one of my personal favourites."

"We always allow our photographers to experiment with their pictures because photography is an art form. Instead of just producing a black and white image, for example, they will tint it for effect. We also like the unusual. John Voss' image of a masked woman at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival is a 'stand-alone' picture which tells a story in itself. It also makes you look twice. There is something strange, perhaps slightly unnerving about it."

"We have tremendous freedom to produce original photographs in *The Independent*. In the *Time Off* section on Saturdays we have an open brief to produce the images we want."

"And I suppose this is *The Independent's* secret. We use pictures to reflect stories, inform readers and entertain. And we have the freedom to use them properly. This selection of pictures, taken during the past year, represents the best of what we do."

*A selection of photographs taken on independent foreign assignments can be seen on the front of Saturday's *Time Off* section.*

Nicole Veash



By Nicola Kurtz: John Black Feather, who came to London to retrieve the remains of his long-dead ancestor



By John Voss: A member of the Players' Company theatre group, rehearsing for a performance at the Edinburgh Fringe



By Andrew Buurman: Kensington Palace, 1 September 1997

An Independent eye



By Tom Pilston: The Tory conference. Michael Heseltine's face says it all



By Brian Harris: One Man, training at dawn in Greystoke, Cumbria



By David Ashdown: England v Australia, Twickenham, November 1997

Don't you know that it's different for boys?

Jack Straw wants to sort them out. A charity is also on their case. Little wonder, says Angela Neustatter

BOYS are failing at school, lagging behind girls with their degree passes and watching girls getting jobs over them. The only lead they have, we are told, is in crime and violence – so much so that this week the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, tagged them a "priority" case for urgent action.

So what are we to do with boys? We don't like their kickish behaviour, being a football fan is tantamount to becoming a lager lout, if they flex their muscles rather than opening their hearts they are all brash and no sensitivity. Then there

are critics who claim that they are turning into wimps, thanks to single mothers and a lack of father figures, not to mention the feminists who are raising boys to play with dolls not guns, and bringing up girls to play with trains. As one mother observed: "We pity women with two or three sons and celebrate heartily when a friend has a daughter."

So concerned is the charity Parent Network that next week it is holding a major conference, "Raising Boys", where Steve Biddulph, the Australian family therapist and best selling author of child-rearing books,

been uproariously physical, noisy, energetic, testosterone-driving characters. I believe Biddulph is saying something important. My sons were born at a time when feminists – including me – were challenging everything to do with male culture and trying to bring up shining examples of emancipation.

One thing that was absolutely not acceptable was the boy child who took swaggering delight in his physical strength. But, like someone with a dirty secret, I silently delighted in this and still do as they leap and cavort across the sitting-room floor throwing themselves into karate positions, wrestling with their Dad, towering over me and flexing inflatable pectorals. They so obviously feel good about their big strong bodies and being admired for this

most primitive and fundamental maleness when it is shown off without harming anyone. That satisfied, they can also afford to let a soft side show.

A measure of the success of

feminism's battle for equality

versity, in work and in self-esteem. Key to this was approval at home for the kind of young woman they were becoming.

Conversely, those who were

not approved of did far less well.

Which brings us back to boys,

and feminists' determination to bring up girls to feel good about themselves came last year with Adrienne Katz's impressive work, "Can-Do-Girls", showing that they are doing

who now live in a climate that tells them just about everything they grew up believing boys should be is devalued or despised. Many see fathers out of work with badly punctured confidence, and the girls they

are growing up among are unimpressed by the things they have assumed they should be.

Vic Seidler author of *Man*

Enough (Sage), who has worked

with men's groups for years,

knows the feeling: "There is a

feeling of cultural dislocation. As

young men, we can no longer rely

upon what our fathers taught us."

While Angela Phillips, mother

of a son, who explored boys'

dilemma in *The Trouble With Boys* (Pandora) says: "Growing

up male is hard – very hard.

It seems to me that we have

been so busy concentrating on

girls and their rights and needs,

that we are failing boys and we

need to get back to enjoying

who and what they are that is

different. Part of what is differ-

ent is physical prowess – that

has been true as long as home

and family has struttured the planet.

Charlie Lewis, a Lancaster University lecturer who has worked extensively on boys'

behaviour, wisely points out:

"The boy who can feel his

physical body is enjoyed is far

more likely to be able to get

close to women and to other

men, and to want to do well in

other ways than the boy who

feels what he is at the most funda-

mental level is unacceptable."

But the trouble is, we've

come to fear what boys are."

Of course, building up boys

in a constructive way isn't only

about pride in their physicality.

They need to feel valued in many

ways, they need Dads who can

show them how. Women have

done their bit to help girls rush

ahead. Now it's time to give our

sons the encouragement they

need. Forget the New Man:

Let's hear it for Real Boys

Tony's not for turning

Blair looks laid back but he won't stray from his agenda. Anthony Bevins, political editor, reports

ANYONE who sees Tony Blair working in his shirt-sleeves from a couch in a small and unassuming ante-room of No 10 knows the difference he has made to the style of Government. Relaxed, confident and determined to keep the "big picture" firmly in his sights, he has made remarkable progress over the past year, not least in bringing about a revolution of constitutional reforms, from devolution through to freedom of information.

The Good Friday agreement on Northern Ireland, the start that has been made on lifting the beef ban, publication of a green paper on welfare reform, Bank of England independence, the handgun ban, and the investment of the windfall tax in welfare to work are just a small part of the momentous changes introduced in the past year. Yet, a deep-seated cynicism, if not detestation, pervades parts of the Labour Party when Mr Blair's first-year record is discussed.

The Prime Minister's lengthy anniversary letter to party members last week may have said: "The support of all Labour members, young and old, new and long-standing, is vital both to maintain the momentum of this government and to win the next election victory," but the most snide and venomous criticism of Mr Blair and the first Labour administration for a generation comes today from Labour MPs and party members, as often as not speaking anonymously.

But as Jack Straw – one of the Blair favourites – said in a speech this week, the Prime Minister has no interest in the ideological battles of the past, nor the clashes of the traditional class-based left-right divide. "Indeed, where we can work with other parties or with people without a party political background, we will do so," Mr Straw said.

Mr Blair has moved beyond ideology, beyond party, and is moving to a new way of doing things. "What marks us out from the politics of the past," Mr Straw said, "is that we will not hesitate to do what is right and in the best interests of the country as a whole."

If that means treading on the toes of the old Labour left, or the trades unions, or any other traditional Labour pressure group, Mr Blair will do it without fear or favour. To the Labour critics, it seems that only the CBI, the royals, and Rupert Murdoch can expect more favours than fairness demands. The bitterness that generates among old and faithful supporters is natural, but it will not deflect Mr Blair from his project: a society in which economic efficiency and social justice go hand in hand.

But the efficiency side of the equation is the one that creates most internal Labour dissent, fuelled by the demand for more money to be spent on the poor and the needy today, rather than tomorrow, and paid for by tax increases if necessary. Mr



Blair, as always, wants a balance; as he said in last week's party letter: "The whole government shares Gordon Brown's determination to get the public finances on a sound footing. We want public money spent on the things we care about, not on paying the interest on debts built up under the Tories. Nor do we want spending today to become cuts tomorrow."

Mr Blair's love affair with fiscal prudence drives some members of his party to distraction. But his devotion is no passing fad or fancy infatuation; it is absolute. Whether the voters will acknowledge the

change and reward Labour with another five-year, full-term majority depends on fickle gratitude, the speed with which William Hague can lick his party into shape, and the unforeseeable crises that will inevitably batter government popularity over the next four years.

For the moment, the voters appear more convinced than the party members, inside the Commons and out. A MORI survey carried out for the Sun at the weekend suggested a staggering five per cent swing to Labour since the election last year, putting Labour on a 54 per cent rating. But only

two in five of those questioned felt that Labour had kept its election promises on health, education and jobs, and an Independent poll carried out by Harris Research found that only 49 per cent felt the Government had on balance been honest and trustworthy.

Yet the Prime Minister is unimpressed by polls like these: he believes strongly that if he and the Government do the right things, the voters will re-elect them.

Neither party dissent, nor public conflict will deter him from the agenda he has set himself for welfare reform – the most ten-

dentious issue he could tackle as a Labour leader.

In his letter to party members, Mr Blair said: "It would be easy to put complex and controversial areas like welfare reform on the back burner. But if we are to make a difference, we need to start now." This followed his comment in the foreword to the March green paper: "Work for those who can; security for those who cannot."

Now, party members are told: "We believe that society has a responsibility to help people in genuine need, who are unable to look after themselves. But nobody

LABOUR 1 YEAR ON

• Our aim is to fight poverty, not increase it; narrow social division, not widen it; and extend opportunities, not deny them •

would deny that people have a responsibility to help provide for themselves when they can or that a job is the best route out of poverty for those who can work...

"It is about delivering a more efficient system. Our aim is to fight poverty, not increase it; narrow social division, not widen it; and extend opportunities, not deny them." The public and the party should not be deceived by that ready charm and the shirt-sleeve style. Mr Blair intends to change society, as he has changed his party, and as far as he is concerned, those that do not like it will have to lump it.

THE INDEPENDENT

WIN a champagne weekend break at Down Hall Country House Hotel



Take part in our unique competition and you could be pampering yourself with a luxurious weekend break at Down Hall Country House Hotel, an elegant Italian style mansion, near Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire.

Set in over 100 acres of beautiful woodland, park and landscaped gardens, Down Hall is a perfect example of quality craftsmanship from the Victorian age. With a history just as rich and intricate as the carvings dating back to 1540, this Italian style mansion has recently been refurbished to the highest standards.

Your prize would include two nights luxury accommodation for two in a superior double/twin room, full English breakfasts, candlelit dinners in the restaurant, complimentary use of the leisure facilities including leisure pool, sauna, whirlpool spa, mini-gym, tennis courts and fitness room plus champagne on arrival.

Prize to be taken by 30/11/98.
To enter this competition simply dial the number below and answer the following question on line and leave your name, address and contact number:

Q: Where did Champagne get its name from?
0930 563 442

If you are not lucky enough to win the following offer for independent readers? 25% off weekend breaks at Down Hall Country House Hotel, for £52.50 per person, per night includes luxury accommodation, full English breakfast, dinner and complimentary use of the leisure facilities. This offer is based on two sharing a double/twin room for a minimum two night stay. It is valid until 31st July 1998, subject to availability. To book call Down Hall Country House Hotel on 01279 731441, mentioning The Independent reader offer.

Call now 24 hours at 01279 731441. Please quote offer code: INDEPENDENT COMPETITION. Valid until 31st July 1998.

Promises, promises – but have they been kept?

PLEDGE 1: CLASS SIZES

THERE has been a significant advance in fulfilling Tony Blair's promise to reduce class sizes for five, six and seven-year-olds to a maximum of 30 by the end of the Parliament: by September, ministers will have kept their pledge to cut class numbers for a quarter of infants being taught in classes of more than 30.

The class reductions are possible, because £27m being spent on benefiting around 100,000 children in 65 local authorities is coming from abolishing the Assisted Places Scheme, which subsidised pupils from poor backgrounds at fee-paying schools.

It will be comparatively easy to fulfil the first stage of the pledge, but councils expect problems in a couple of years as parents clamour for places at popular schools and are turned away because classes are too big.

Ministers issued guidelines this week urging authorities to expand popular schools rather than putting extra children in unpopular ones. However, it may not always be physically possible to build extra classrooms or adapt schools to meet parental demand.

Difficulties may also arise if there are not enough extra children to make another class and the nearest alternative school is, say, five miles away. Will a school be able to persuade the parents of the 31st five-year-old to send her to the second school?

Pledge rating: 5/10

Judith Judd
Education Editor

PLEDGE 2: YOUNG OFFENDERS

IT WILL take until the end of the century before the full impact of new government powers to speed up youth justice is fully felt – although an order to the courts to sharpen up their act has already made its mark on the time it takes for a case to be heard.

The Home Office has set a 71-day target time for dealing with a young offender from the point of arrest to sentencing – the national average was 142 days in 1996 – but the legislation has yet to come into force.

Pilot schemes where courts

will be set strict time limits and

solicitors, probation officers,

and the police could face fines

for dragging their feet, will not

start until October 1999. How-

ever, publication of "best practice" guidelines for courts seems

to have spurred some magis-

trates into action. In North

Hampshire, for example, the

time from a young offender be-

ing charged to sentenced has

dropped from 133 days to 89.

The key legislation, the Crime and Disorder Bill, will allow courts to lock up persistent child offenders as young as 12 while waiting for their cases to be heard. Other initiatives such as replacing repeat cautioning with a final warning, parenting orders, and child curfew orders, are also expected to have a knock-on effect on the number of teenagers going to court.

For 12 month's work, Jack

Straw's output is impressive.

Pledge rating: 6/10

Jason Bennetto
Crime Correspondent

new Labour because Britain deserves better

Keep this card and see that we keep our promises
Labour
T Tony Blair

1 cut class sizes to 30 or under for 5, 6 and 7 year-olds
2 by using money from the assisted places scheme
3 fast-track punishment for persistent young offenders
4 by halving the time from arrest to sentencing
5 cut NHS waiting lists by treating an extra 300,000 patients
6 cut 250,000 under-25 year-olds off benefit and tax credits
7 get 250,000 under-25 year-olds off benefit and tax credits
8 cut income tax rates, cut VAT on heating to 5% and
9 no rises in income tax rates, cut VAT on heating to 5% and
10 inflation and interest rates as low as possible

To join phone 0898 300 900

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your donation goes to the Labour Party

100% of your

Don Copland

DON COPLAND was one of the most important figures to emerge in the field of spiritual healing in the last 20 years.

Having been brought up a Christian, over the years he expanded his interest into comparative religion and early Christian history, including the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Essenes. He investigated healing through the ages and this led him to his first healing encounter in 1968, when he healed his second wife, Audrey, of a chronic neck condition.

With the preface "Well, it can't do any harm!", he held his hands over his wife's neck and in one session cured her of a year-old problem that had failed to respond to medical treatment. This success led him to train as a healer with the National Federation of Spiritual Healers and the words "It can't do any harm!" became a catchphrase.

Spiritual healing is the channelling of healing energies from a "divine source" through the healer to the patient, with the intention of boosting the body's own recuperative abilities to combat a wide range of physical and psychological conditions. A variety of research has been undertaken to demonstrate the scientific validity of healing, including studies on animals, plants and micro-organisms, as well as humans. Results have indicated the existence of a real healing effect.

The National Federation of Spiritual Healers (NFSH) was founded in 1955 as the first non-denominational professional body for spiritual healing. Copland became a Healer Member of the NFSH in 1977 and in 1982, after two years as Vice-President, was elected President. He held this position for seven years, only relinquishing it to take on the full-time job of Administrator for seven years, after retiring from his job as a company director. His final role in the NFSH was as Media Consultant and Spokesperson.

Copland's experience in business, running his own engineering company, Wivic Engineering, with two partners for more than 20 years, meant that he brought practical administrative skills to the NFSH as well as a deep spiritual commitment. These combined qualities enabled him, with other colleagues, to transform the NFSH from a sleepy cash-strapped "club" into the professional organisation that it is today – the largest spiritual healing charity in the world. He worked tirelessly to bring spiritual healing into mainstream acceptance, gaining the British Medical Association's approval of the NFSH Code of Conduct and helping to form the Confederation of Healing Organisations (CHO).

He frequently appeared on television and radio to explain the value of spiritual healing and was the subject of many newspaper and magazine articles citing his healing successes. In

attempts to produce measured evidence of the healing process, Copland's healing was monitored by Biofeedback Mind Mirrors (which measured brainwave changes in both Copland and his patient) and infrared cameras (which showed white light building up in his hands and passing into his patient), but the real proof of its efficacy was in his results.

He was a founder member of the NFSH Healer Training programme and was a gifted tutor, well-known for his relaxed yet informed approach and notorious for his jokes. His luck was also legendary: no healing fund-raiser or tombola was immune to his winning streak; he was constantly donating prizes back.

He wrote a definitive book on spiritual healing, *So You Want to Be a Healer?* (1981), while his "Spiritual Reflections" column in the NFSH magazine *Healing Review* (now *Healing Today*) was one of its most popular features. He edited the magazine for many years and loved to write. He published several books of spiritual verse including *Verses and Prayers for Children* (1977). The Healer's Prayer which he wrote is used by healers throughout the country.

Don Copland was born in Lincoln in 1930. He was called up for National Service when he was 18 and spent a large proportion of it in Malaya during the Malayan Emergency. In his spare time he kept a scrumpled-up bullet

which had flown in through the window of a troop train, hitting the seat behind his head. His love of Oriental food dated from this period and led to a general interest in cooking.

He was also a keen gardener and his healing hands meant that everything he grew was bigger and better; he used to say that he channelled healing through the water in the hosepipe. He was very practical and as well as building sets for years for Frank Muir's amateur dramatic company, the Thorpe Players, he also as a young man built a home from scratch on the banks of the River Thames near Chertsey, in Surrey. He was a talented sportsman, playing hockey and tennis, and also loved driving, especially in car rallies.

He had an affinity with animals and birds and found that they responded particularly well to healing. Several of his most recent "patients" were dogs, who sat as still and contented as could be while Copland's hands were laid over them.

Ruth Copland

Donald Frank Copland, spiritual healer and businessman; born Lincoln 25 November 1930; Vice-President, National Federation of Spiritual Healers 1980-82, President 1982-89, Administrator 1989-96; married 1954 Anne Taylor (one son; marriage dissolved 1964), 1964 Audrey Murr (one daughter; marriage dissolved 1986); died Camberley, Surrey 24 April 1998.



"It can't do any harm!" The proof of Copland's spiritual healing was in its results

Armand Jammot



FRANCE isn't known as a great exporter of television formats. Coming up with a top-rated educational game show and selling it to 15 foreign countries is a most unlikely feat. Yet Armand Jammot, the French television

producer and broadcaster, achieved this when he created *Des Chiffres et Des Lettres* in 1965.

Within a few years, *Des Chiffres et Des Lettres* could attract more viewers than the French football cup final, with a peak audience of 15 million. When Channel 4 launched in November 1982, the first programme transmitted was *Countdown*, a renamed version of the French show. Hosted by the brainy and now ubiquitous Carol Vorderman and the avuncular Richard Whiteley, the late afternoon programme is still going strong on British television and has recently spawned a hybrid, *Celebrity Countdown*, of which its original creator might not quite have approved.

Well aware of the French

fondness for crosswords and mental arithmetic, Jammot, a veteran of French radio quizzes, devised a television show relying on both. The format was simple, yet effective: nine vowels and consonants drawn at random to spell the longest possible word, six numbers to be tabulated to reach or get close to a given figure in a race against the clock. Two contestants, a host, two judges to rule with a dictionary and a blackboard. Not even a pocket calculator in sight.

Born in 1922, Jammot first worked as a journalist with the regional paper *France Du Centre* and then the national daily *L'Avant*. On his 33rd birthday, he joined the French commercial radio station Europe 1

and worked on audience-participation shows like *Vous Etes Formidables!* ("You're Amazing!"), on which listeners helped people in need. The mid-Fifties were the golden age of French commercial radio and Jammot proved a natural. He launched *Verdict*, a programme which asked a panel of listeners to rule on a matter of conscience before he was poached by a rival network, RTF.

He found time, too, to write two filmscripts: *Le Passage du Rhin*, directed by André Cayatte and featuring Charles Aznavour, won a Golden Lion in Venice in 1960 while *Les Risques du Médecin*, directed by André Cayatte seven years later, gave Jacques Brel his film début as a teacher accused of rape by a pupil.

In 1962, Jammot joined the newly launched television station Antenne 2 and devised a variety of shows which would eventually constitute up to 35 per cent of the channel's output. *Des Chiffres et Des Lettres* of course, but also the daily magazine show *Agouraud et Madame et, most famously, Les Dossiers de l'Ecran* ("The Small Screen Files"). The show, which ran from 1967 to 1991, gave over the whole evening schedule to a specific theme. A feature film opened proceedings, followed by a studio debate with experts and a viewer-phone-in. Though operating in a still tightly controlled broadcasting environment, *Les Dossiers de l'Ecran* managed to tackle issues like

sexuality, collaboration under the Vichy régime and the war in Algeria. Audience interest often caused the studio switchboards to collapse.

Jammot considered that "télé-participation" was a natural extension of the broadcaster's public mandate. In 1976, after becoming director of programmes at Antenne 2, he convinced

President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing to answer questions from a live studio audience. Jammot then successfully repeated the trick with the actor Yves Montand and nearly convinced the *monstre sacré* to run for office. But Jammot never pushed himself in front of the cameras: "It's not in my nature to appear on television. I don't have the temperament necessary to perform."

Instead, he thought up more shows, such as *Y'a un Truc* ("There's a Trick"), *L'Homme du 20ème Siècle* ("20th-Century Man"), *La Bourse aux Idées* ("Stock Exchange for Ideas") and, with the help of his son Maurice, devised dozens of board games.

Jammot retired in the early Nineties and courageously fought a cancer which weakened his body but not his vision. "Of course, I still have ideas. When I run out of them, you can write my obituary!" said

Pierre Perrone

Armand Jammot, television and radio producer, broadcaster, journalist and board-game inventor; born Aixfortville, France 4 April 1922; married; died Paris 19 April 1998.

Ramakant Desai

RAMAKANT DESAI was a medium-fast bowler who always looked both undersized and underweight for the job, first appearing in England in 1959, or as from school, at the age of 19. He bowled and he bowled, contributing 600 of the 1,500 overs delivered by the opening attack (with Surendra Nau) on that tour. India won only seven of their 35 matches, losing 11, but "Tiny" Desai never lost his smile.

He had won his tour place after an outstanding debut season for Bombay in which he had taken 50 Ranji Trophy wickets at an average of 11 with his right-arm attack, developing outswinging from a textbook approach and delivery. Chosen for his first Test match in Delhi, in the final match against the powerful West Indies, he bowled 49 overs to take 4-169 in a score of 644-8.

"He had rare ability and it was a pity that he had to be brought to England almost straight out of junior cricket," grumbled Wisden's report of the following tour. "He possessed that very rare attribute of being able to bowl outswingers to right-hand batsmen and had endless courage. He found himself terribly overworked in the Tests: the Leeds crowd must have wondered from where he found his stamina as he toiled with little respite."

John Arlott wrote of him that year: "Desai, who reached the age of 20 during the Lord's Test, commanded a peak of pace surprising in a man only nine stones in weight and he concealed a disconcerting bumper."

English crowds then and now respect cheerful effort, especially against the odds, and "Tiny" was an immensely popular cricketer, admitting that all his hard travail in England also brought much learning. Desai became a regular selection for India during the next decade, touring West Indies, Australasia, Pakistan and New Zealand and two more visits to England.

Against Pakistan he returned 8-190 in Delhi and his best bowling was 6-36 against New Zealand in Bombay. In all



Desai: rare outswingers

he took 74 Test wickets at an average of 37 and also shares the Indian record ninth-wicket partnership with Panditnab Joshi, 149 against Pakistan in 1960-61. "I rate him among our four best, along with Dattu Bhadkar, Kapil Dev and Jagat Singh Srinath," said Raj Singh Dungarpur, President of the Board of Control.

In later years Desai went into business and only recently resigned as chairman of selectors.

Derek Hodgeon

Ramakant Bhakji Desai, cricketer; born Bombay 20 June 1939; died Catania, Sicily 23 April 1998.

Professor Henry Blumenthal

HENRY BLUMENTHAL was a leading British scholar in the area of Neoplatonism, one of a small band of pioneers, including his friends John Rist and Dennis O'Brien, who emerged from Cambridge in the early 1960s as students of F.H. Sandbach, so evidently broad-minded that he let them pursue such an odd bird as the philosopher Plotinus.

Of these three, only Blumenthal remained to fly the flag of Neoplatonism in England. Rist moved to Toronto and O'Brien to Paris. Taken on in Liverpool in 1965 by the father of Neoplatonist studies in Britain, Hilary Armstrong, Blumenthal went on to succeed him, and to become himself the senior figure in the field.

Henry Blumenthal was born in 1936, and attended Mill Hill School in London before going on, after National Service in the RAF, to Trinity College, Cambridge, whence he graduated in the Classical Tripos in 1960, with Philosophy and Linguistics as his special topics. After a year in Paris, he returned to Cambridge to do a PhD, which he gained in 1964. The topic, a study of Plotinus' psychology, was published in due course as *Plotinus' Psychology: his doctrines of the embodied soul* (1971), and was immediately hailed as the authoritative work on the subject in England.

Plotinus' doctrine in this area is in fact peculiarly subtle and complex, and its ramifications continued to exercise Blumenthal throughout his career. Indeed, he left behind him an almost complete commentary on Plotinus' major essay "Problems of the Soul" (*Enneads* IV 3-5), which we must hope will see the light of day.

He expanded this to a comprehensive knowledge of every aspect of Neoplatonism, based as it is on valiant attempts to reconcile Aristotelian doctrine, as expressed in the *De Anima*, with that of Plato, with which it might seem to be in flat contradiction. In a long series of articles, over a quarter of a century (many of which were gathered together in his 1993 collection *Soul and Intellect*),

he has shown that the consequences for medieval and later philosophy. This resulted ultimately in a comprehensive study published in 1996, *Aristotle and Neoplatonism in Late Antiquity*.

Following a brief stint at Mount Allison University in Canada (where he met his wife Anna), Blumenthal secured an appointment as Lecturer in Greek at Liverpool, and remained there for the rest of his working life, rising from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer to Reader, and then, from 1983, Head of Department. In 1997, to the pleasure of his many friends and admirers, he was honoured with a personal chair.

Though troubled periodically by illness, he was a great

source of fun and inspiration to a host of colleagues around the world. I recall in particular a mad and illegal assault on Mount Etna in September 1994. The peak of Etna was off limits, since it had swallowed up a group of German tourists a few months before, but Blumenthal was not to be put off, and talked Andrew Smith and myself into joining him. We slipped away from our guided tour, and got away with it, but we might well not have – especially as Blumenthal contrived to slip at one point in our descent and somersaulted past me, out of the mist.

It may seem strange that a man who personally was not persuaded of the immortality of the soul, or indeed of the existence of a transcendent deity, should have devoted his career so successfully to the study of Neoplatonism, but he did. Perhaps the presence of Aristotle, with whose views he would have been more in sympathy, made things more congenial.

John Dillon

Henry Jacob Blumenthal, classical scholar; born Leipzig, Germany 30 March 1936; Lecturer in Greek, Liverpool University 1965-74, Senior Lecturer 1974-78, Reader 1978-97, Head of Department of Greek (Literature and Archaeology) 1983-90, Professor 1997-98; married 1966 Anna Rosner (one son, one daughter, one foster daughter); died Catania, Sicily 23 April 1998.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

MEMORIAL SERVICES

BLUMENTHAL: Professor Henry Jacob, MA Phil(Cantab). A thanksgiving for his life and work of Professor Blumenthal will be held at the Bowes & Bowes Hotel, Talbot Road, Oxford, on Monday 5 May at 1.30pm. Enquiries to 01865-847-000.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR GAZETTE BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Weddings, anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette's Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E1 4NR, or faxed to 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2010) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, or charged at 6s a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at 6s a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Gloucester, 1st Marquess of Hertford, and the Duchess of Gloucester, 1st Marquess of Hertford, will be married on Saturday 21 June at the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, London SW1.

ANNIVERSARIES: Births: Jules-Adolphe Aimé-Louis Breton, painter, 1827; Marie Corelli (Mary Mackay), novelist, 1855. Deaths: John Dryden, poet, 1700; David Livingstone, missionary and ex-

plorer, 1873. On this day: the Union of Scotland and England was proclaimed, 1707; the London Library was officially opened, 1841; in New York, the Empire State Building was opened, 1931. Today is May Day (Labour Day) and the Feast Day of St Agostino or Amaro, St Brictius of Brete, St Joseph the Worker, St Peregrine Laziosi, St Sigismund of Burgundy and St Theobald of Narbonne.

Lectures

National Gallery: Stella Gambling, "Gardens (i): Lacquer, A Lady in a Garden taking Coffee with some Children", 1pm.

Victoria and Albert Museum: Patricia Baker, "Chinese Tomb Figures", 2.30pm.

Tate Gallery: June Redfern and Colin Wiggins, "Artists on Board", 1pm.

Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Professor Colin Pillinger, "Carbon Skelton or Chemical Fossils", 1pm.

Synagogue services

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 8.00pm.

United Synagogues 0181-343 8989. Federation of Synagogues 0803-202 2263. Union of Orthodox Synagogues 0171-561 1445. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain 0171-349 0721. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation 0171-285 2573. New London Synagogue (Masorti) 0171-322 1026.

THE COUNTY court had power under section 138(3) of the County Courts Act 1984 to order a tenant against whom possession was claimed for non-payment of rent to pay not only rent due at the date of service of the writ, but also rent payable up to the date of the order.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appellant's appeal against an order made in the county court in possession proceedings against the respondents.

The appellant was the freehold owner of premises let to the respondents, who fell into arrears in payment of the rent and service charges. The appellant issued proceedings in

THE INDEPENDENT

EDITOR IN CHIEF: ANDREW MARR
ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL
TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000
FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435
THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Sinn Fein will have to get real

IT IS time for the IRA to hand in its arms. We have said it before and we say it again. It has, of course, always been true and the IRA has never been likely to do it. But now it is more important than ever, and we are approaching the point when the IRA fantasy of the "armed struggle" has to collide with reality. Something has to give.

The Good Friday agreement made a republican case for disarmament: it offers the IRA its best chance of achieving its aim of getting British "troops out", as part of a process of multilateral disarmament by which it, at the same time, gives up its weapons. There is, of course, no moral equivalence between IRA terrorism and the British armed services, but there is a practical equation. If the IRA retains its weapons, the loyalist paramilitaries will keep theirs, and the British Army will stay. Violence will continue, and the republican cause will be further marginalised.

However, the IRA cannot be forced to hand over its Armalites, mortars and Seawee, and shows no sign of even thinking about doing so. Its statement yesterday was categoric: "There will be no decommissioning by the IRA." In effect, it said that there would be no disarmament until the "end of British rule in Ireland", which might as well be "not ever". As John Hume, leader of the constitutional nationalists, has said, there is a "no surrender" mentality on both sides in Ulster. Mr Hume told this newspaper recently that he could not imagine the IRA ever handing its guns to the British government. He does think it is possible, though, that the issue could be handled by the international body set up to oversee decommissioning. But it is hard to be optimistic, and it is even harder to predict any movement before the election of the Northern Ireland assembly.

So, what then? The question of decommissioning was the greyest of the grey areas in the Good Friday agreement, but was a necessary gap which allowed the rest of the deal to be stuck together. At the last minute, at lunch time on Good Friday, the Unionists raised the issue of whether Sinn Fein leaders would be able to serve as ministers in the assembly while the IRA was fully armed. The Prime Minister jotted down a letter to David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, promising to "support changes" to the agreement if its provisions for excluding people linked to terrorism turned out to be "ineffective", and the deal was struck.

The letter has been condemned colourfully by Ian Paisley's crew as being worth no more than Neville Chamberlain's piece of paper. Predictable propaganda, of course, but there is the beginning of a credibility problem here. What if Ireland, north and south, votes yes in the referendum in three weeks' time? What if Sinn Fein is elected to the assembly and Gerry Adams seeks to join the power-sharing executive? What then?

Well, if the IRA will not give up any weapons, Sinn Fein is going to have some explaining to do. So far, most of the pressure in this process has been on Mr Trimble and the Unionists, and it is infinitely to Mr Trimble's credit that he has stayed with it and reversed the traditional abstentionist stance of Unionism. Now the spotlight is going to swing back to the republicans.

No one believes Sinn Fein's protestation that it and the IRA are separate organisations. No one expects Gerry Adams to dissociate himself from the IRA. He has engaged in some extraordinary double-talk to embrace the ballot box without condemning the bullet, but the moment of truth is near. He ransacked the thesaurus to avoid "condemning" the IRA murders which had him suspended from the peace talks earlier this year. He "regretted" them, as he regretted all killings, and, more significantly, called them "wrong". But if he wants to serve as a minister in the assembly, he will have to affirm his commitment to non-violence, and promise to "use any influence [he] may have to achieve the decommissioning of all paramilitary arms within two years".

That is what it says in the Good Friday agreement which Sinn Fein has not exactly signed up to, but gone along with. Mr Blair has, rightly, appealed to republican sentiment, as part of a strategy of kicking away, one by one, the moral crutches which support armed republicanism. But now he has to lean on Mr Adams to repudiate the use or threat of force for political ends in more explicit terms. Sinn Fein must take the first step towards achieving the "demilitarisation" it claims to seek.

Brew Labour's millennium beer tent

MY GOODNESS! Just in case all you Brew XI drinkers, Ruddlers and Tetley hatters out there were worrying, we can now confirm that you will indeed be able to get a drink at the Millennium Dome. What's more, you'll be offered a wide range of real ales. This is extremely refreshing news, and, we suspect, will work wonders for the popularity of the Dome project.

It has long been the chant of his hatters critics that Peter "it's my round" Mandelson, the minister responsible for the project, couldn't organise a piss-up in a brewery. Well, he is the last person to be found crying into his beer and he has boldly decided to restore a bit of London pride. The "Im at the Dome" will be a showcase for British brewing and will feature a new ale, called Mandy's Revenge. Don't drink too much of this, though, or you will soon find the room, and perhaps much else, spinning around you. Mind you, it might be that it's easier to find tranquillity in the Dreamscape exhibition or use the Body Zone in order, as the organisers say, to "explore the dramatic impact of lifestyle choices on the way our bodies behave and perform".

All in all it is a shrewd move by the Minister Without Portfolio But With A Drink In His Hand. He has an opportunity to show how "Brew Labour" can refresh the parts of the body politic that other parties cannot reach. Traditionally the brewers have been the allies of the Conservative Party. Mr Mandelson might be tempting them into New Labour's "big tent" through the organisation of this grandiose beer tent. In any case we will soon be enjoying probably the best booze-up in the world.



Mary Bell

HOWEVER dark the detail of Mary Bell's crimes and childhood, however repugnant the issue of payment, the plain fact is that we urgently must come to understand the intergenerational transmission of abuse and brutality which has created the culture of violence in which we presently live. The extremes are most often the ground on which we learn.

Other less publicised sadistic abuse cases are thrown out of courts as improbable, because the general public, including lawyers, juries and doctors, read newspapers and see no detail of the blacker depravities of human behaviour. It is a journalistic duty, however unpleasant, to lay these open to scrutiny and investigation without prurience. Satiation and revulsion are inevitable but we need to focus if there is any hope of finding even partial long-term solutions.

MARJORIE ORR
Director
Accuracy about Abuse
London NW3

I WOULD not attempt to justify Mary Bell's crimes, but I do not believe that it is reasonable to put her on a par with a criminal who enjoys the proceeds of crime.

Mary was not paid for committing the crimes. She was paid for agreeing – long after she had completed her sentence – to discuss the circumstances in which the crimes were committed. That is quite different from allowing a drug dealer, a professional murderer, or a professional robber to enjoy the proceeds of his or her crime. I fail to see how Mary's fee could provide an incentive for other potential child murderers.

RITA HALE
London N1

AS YOU comment in your leading article (30 April), cycles of childhood abuse and cruelty are repeated endlessly. If Mary Bell has succeeded thus far in providing her 14-year-old daughter with loving care, is this not a matter of some hope? And doesn't she and those who over the years have tried to help her deserve some credit?

JOHN MITCHELL
London SE13

SO THE tabloids have found Mary Bell and forced her and her child to flee. Will any of the reporters or editors of these papers be prosecuted for child abuse? Naturally not. Will any proceeds of this story go to charity? What a foolish idea. What has happened with all the promises to protect privacy? Ignored when they are in the way of a good story. And these are the same people who are always pretending to support moral values, the responsible adults who attack a woman for a crime she committed as a child 30 years ago.

HERBERT SOTTUNG
Friedrichsdorf, Germany

I ONCE knew Mary Bell's address and was approached by scores of journalists each arguing that if she gave her story it would be a unique opportunity to let everyone know she was now a different person, trying to lead a normal life. I found the only escape was to deny all knowledge of her.

The newspapers gleefully ripping her apart for accepting a few thousand pounds are the ones which would have offered ten times as much for an exclusive. What cynical swines newshounds can be (I was a journalist myself).

KEN NORMAN
Bowness-on-Solway, Cumbria

IT WOULD appear, in the wake of the comments by the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary on the Mary Bell affair, that the people's princess was pursued by the people's lynch mob.

MARK TREGLOWN
Bristol

Join the euro club

FOR A moment when I read John Redwood's article "When the new tills ring" (27 April) I thought he must be visiting from another planet.

Most interesting from a former

DTI minister is the idea that wicked

foreign companies "may decide that

this is the time to force the British sup-

plier to take the currency risk". In fact, British companies have hid and paid in German marks, French francs, US dollars etc for decades, in order to remain competitive. And for just as long, a forward foreign exchange contract has helped them to hedge the risk. It's not a euro issue – it's daily business.

But wait – surely the best way to avoid this problem of exchange risk is to join the single currency. Then everyone can avoid paying exchange rate premiums to those nasty foreign exchange dealers.

Mr Redwood's obsession robs him of the vision which other nations such as the Austrians have. They are already dual-pricing in euro, and quoting euro equivalents in their daily papers – even on the stock market pages – to prepare their people nine months before the currency is even introduced. They will use the change to accelerate the gradual move away from the 19th-century medium of notes and coin, with its risk of forgery and convenient unscrewbility, and towards electronic payment by debit card and the electronic purse.

Oh, for politicians who see the potential of an inevitable idea rather than fighting to preserve a better yesterday!

PAUL G RATCLIFFE
Tunbridge Wells, Kent

ONE UNDERSTANDS that it is one of the roles of a serious journalist to provoke thought, to suggest the implausible and to question accepted wisdom. However, Hamish McRae (Comment, 22 April), surely had his tongue firmly in his cheek in suggesting that Britain would be as well off economically in the North American Free Trade Area (Nafta) it would be as a full member of the euro club.

It is true that historically the UK has invested heavily in North America. But in future the opportunities for investment in Europe, where corporate rationalisation and consolidation has a long way to go before reaching the mature state of the US economy, will be far greater. These investment opportunities will be

greatly enhanced by economic and monetary union. They would not be duplicated on the same scale by membership of Nafta if the UK remained a sterling island in a large US dollar bloc.

Equally, I would suggest, the cultural affinity between Britain and the rest of Europe, based on shared historic moral and social values, is stronger than our identity with the laissez-faire doctrines of the US.

Plan A should be to declare our firm intention to join EMU as soon as possible, preferably before the next general election. This would ease pressure on the pound. It is, of course, a good idea to have a plan B up one's sleeve; it should be to commit the UK to joining EMU as soon as economically possible after 2002.

Any other solution would relegated the UK to a very minor role in world affairs. It is a kind suggestion of Mr Gingrich, but I suspect that once we were inside Nafta the Americans would eat us for breakfast.

NEIL MONTGOMERY
Woodbridge, Suffolk

Arms catalogue

IN HER piece on the Oxfam report about arms sales (23 April) Fran Abrams refers to a catalogue from the Defence Export Services Organisation which lists eight UK companies involved in the manufacture and supply of small arms and ammunition, and compares this with a list of 120 companies identified by Oxfam.

I should clarify that this apparent disparity is because the catalogue in question, a commercial publication produced in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence, is designed to publicise British companies and products. It is not intended as a comprehensive list. It is entirely up to companies themselves as to whether they wish to be included.

OONA MUIRHEAD
Director of Information Strategy and News
Ministry of Defence

BSE mystery

THE DEATH of Clare Tompkins from CJD is very sad and very puzzling ("Vegetarian dies after battle against CJD", 23 April). Clare is not the first vegetarian to have contracted this disease allegedly caught by eating beef. We may be barking up the wrong tree.

More and more evidence indicates that BSE may not be caused by cattle feed but by exposure to organophosphate pesticides which attack the nervous system and are widely used in farming and horticulture. Large doses were compulsorily used on cattle to kill warble flies.

It has not been scientifically proved that BSE can be transmitted to people by eating beef. This speculation has grown because the symptoms of CJD victims are similar to those in BSE-affected cattle. There is evidence to suggest that CJD victims may have been directly exposed to these pesticides through their work and have been particularly susceptible to their harmful effects. Clare Tompkins worked with animals which may well have been treated to kill parasites. For example, flea sprays and flea collars are impregnated with organophosphates.

This evidence, which has not been thoroughly investigated so far, may throw new light on the BSE crisis.

TERESA GORMAN MP
(Billericay, C)
House of Commons

Top to bottom

AS IT WAS taught at Cambridge in 1935 by a former Survey of India geodesist, the real problem about the height of Mount Everest (Stephen Goodwin's Everest Diary, 23 April) is not defining the top (which the Chinese did with their metal tripod) but the bottom, five hundred miles from the nearest sea.

JOHN WRIGHT
West Wittering, West Sussex

Bite on exports

TWO depressing items on 30 April. British companies not interested in a new British breakthrough in dental care. And a huge deficit on our manufactured goods. When will we learn?

ROBERT DAVIES
London SE3

Campbell, Blunkett and Fayed join the playground skipping circle



MILES KINGTON

Doctor, doctor,
Spin me a line.
If I'm ill,
Tell me I'm fine,
Say the same thing
If I'm dyin',
Doctor, doctor,
Spin me a line.

JUST ONE of the many modern playground rhymes which seem to be based on modern political reality, as I have found out in my rhyme collection in schools round the country. Some of the Labour spin-doctors are even mentioned by name in the odd verse, as in this one: Dr Campbell went for a ramble In a shower of rain. He shouted and raved Till the weather behaved

And it never rained again.

It seems extraordinary that Alastair Campbell's legendary rudeness should have percolated through to school children, though it seems to show that education gets through somehow. Indeed, children have their own views on education, as this skipping rhyme demonstrates: Homework at morning Homework at night All this homework Can't be right Try this homework On David Blunkett, If HE can't do it We'll just junk it. I mentioned yesterday a short rhyme about London's new mayor, which prompted one reader to send me this, beard at her local school: Oh, who will be boss of London town? Who will be mayor when the chips are down? "I," said Ken, "I am the man. I can rule London if anyone can. For I was head of the GLC And everyone remembers me!" "I," said Jeff, "So please give me My last chance to make history! For I was head of the Tory party And I am rich, and my wife is arty ... But when Ken and Jeff had their say Everybody looked the other way. All on the left avoided Ken's eye. All on the right whispered, "Why Jeff? WHY?" It's nice to see a bit of narrative element in modern playground rhymes, and there's an element of story in the next one

too, which seems to be about Tiny Rowland and Mohammed Al Fayed.

Tiny Row had a safe deposit box In Harrods, where gentlemen buy their socks. And in this box his secrets lay And what they were, no one could say But Harrods belonged to Big Fat Mo Who (allegedly) longed to know What Tiny Row had locked away. And so I'm rather afraid to say That Big Fat Mo, allegedly, Got an X-ray scanner to see (This, we stress, is sub judice. And belongs to the realm of theory) Through the walls and right inside To see what Tiny had got in hide. All he saw was a billee doux Saying, "I'm British, unlike you!" This made Mo as mad as hell, Saying, "I'll soon be British as well!" Room for just two more short ones. Dr Jack banned beef on the bone Because of a risk Of a million to one. Will Dr Jack come smiling through? No, not by a chance Of a million to two. John had a euro, shiny new euro, John had a euro in his hat. John went shopping And paid with his euro. Said the shopman to Johnny, "Ere, what's THAT?" More one day soon, I hope.

ملا من الأصل

Internal e-mail reveals that Seagram fired opening salvo in the bidding war

EMI goes under the hammer

By Nigel Cope
Associate City Editor

A BIDDING WAR for EMI was in prospect yesterday after the British music group received an offer from Seagram, the Canadian drinks and entertainment group, that could lead to a bid. Seagram, which controls the Universal/MCA film and music empire, has tabled an offer of 580p a share, valuing EMI at £4.8bn.

EMI shares soared nearly 20 per cent to 706.7p on the news as analysts looked

forward to a possible auction for the last independent major music group. Other potential bidders could include American groups Disney, Viacom and Dreamworks, Bertelsmann of German, Sony of Japan and Kirk Kerkorian, the American buyout specialist who once made an aborted offer for Chrysler the American car giant. Mr Kerkorian has expressed an interest in EMI but it is understood that he has not yet made an offer.

EMI did not disclose the identity of the suitor in its statement to the stock exchange only saying that it had received an offer that could lead to a bid. However internal e-mails sent to EMI staff included more detail. One said: "As you may now be aware, EMI has received an approach about a possible offer for the company from Seagram - owner of Universal. It is in no way clear that the purchase will go through. As we receive more information we will keep you informed."

A memo sent later said simply: "Seagram 580p bid. Advice to hold on as more suitors are coming to the ball."

On the possibility of a bid battle one analyst said: "EMI has rarity value and it is a trophy asset. People go all starry-eyed when it comes to music and film companies."

Anthony de Larrinaga, media analyst at Panmure Gordon added: "The fit would certainly be best with Seagram. EMI is strong in emerging markets and Europe. Seagram is strong in America where EMI is weak."

Analysts see Seagram as the bidder

most that could derive the best synergies from a deal with EMI. In addition to its drinks division which controls brands like Chivas Regal and Glenlivet, Seagram also owns Universal, the former MCA business whose roster of acts includes Counting Crows and Mary J Blige. It would be able to wring out cost benefits from combining its distribution arms whilst improving its geographic spread.

Some analysts said a bid battle could force the take-out price as high as 750p. However others said some US rivals might not cherish the prospect of battling with Seagram. It is understood that Ed Eissner, chief executive office of the Walt Disney Corporation, ruled out a bid for EMI at a briefing in Florida only a few weeks ago.

The other major music groups such as Sony and Bertelsmann might face competition problems if they were to bid. Viacom, the MTV and Paramount media empire has heavy debts and is looking to make disposals including the Simon & Schuster book publishing division and Blockbuster Video.

There has been speculation about a possible bid for EMI since Sir Colin Southgate, the group's chairman flew to the United States last week. Some music industry sources even said he had made the flight in the private jet of Ed Bronfman, Seagram's chief executive officer.

Sir Colin is back in London this week as is Mr Bronfman who has been visiting



What they want: Radiohead, one of the big names that have made EMI an attractive target for overseas predators

Segram's UK operations. He gave a presentation to staff at its London office at The Ark in Hammersmith on Tuesday but is expected to return to Canada by the weekend.

EMI's investors have been bruised by the under-performance of the company which de-merged from the Thorn rentals business in August 1996. It has been hit by the slowdown in global CD sales and the impact of the Asian crisis and full year profits next month are expected to be down from £380m to £312m.

One senior fund manager at one of EMI's largest institutional shareholders said: "EMI is a deal waiting to happen. I think the ground has been well prepared for this with the various management changes over the last couple of months.

It means the deal would be less likely to founder on the personality clashes which have affected other deals (such as the failed Glaxo-SmithKline merger).

EMI's management has been in a state of turmoil since plans for an orderly handover of control from Sir Colin Southgate collapsed into disarray. Sir Colin had been keen to spend less time at EMI following his appointment as chairman of the Royal Opera House. But the promotion of Jim Fifield, the head of EMI Music to the chief executive position was blocked by the non-executives. Mr Fifield, known as "Lucky Jim" because of his high pay then left with a pay-off of £12m.

EMI Group traces its roots back over a century to the birth of recorded music

and has produced a host of famous artists stretching from Dame Nellie Melba to the Spice Girls. Its current roster includes Garth Brooks and Tina Turner plus classical artists Roberto Alagna and Vanessa-Mae. EMI also continues to cast in on the recordings of the Beatles who first rejected but then signed in 1962.

EMI has its origins in The Gramophone Company, set up in London in 1897 by William Barry Owen, as associate of Emile Berliner, the inventor of the gramophone. Two years later the company bought Francis Barraud's now famous painting of black and white fox terrier Nipper listening to the horn of a gramophone. The "His Master's Voice" image and title became the company's trademark.

Who might bid for EMI and why

Seagram



Edgar Bronfman Jr., CEO
Front runner and one of the world's top drinks and entertainment companies. Owns 80 per cent of Universal, whose music acts include Counting Crows. It has virtually no exposure in Europe which is EMI's main market.

Viacom



The US giant is the world's second largest media group after Time Warner. Owns Paramount and MTV but is selling the Simon & Schuster publishing business so might be distracted. Was linked with rumours of a takeover of the then Thorn-EMI more than two years ago. Still has debts of about £6bn. It has been linked with plans to bid for Pearson. The company is headed by the veteran businessman Sumner Redstone, its chairman and CEO.

Disney



Huge in films and television but lacks a major presence in music. Some of EMI's raunchier acts like Chumbawumba might clash with Disney's family image. But might bid if EMI looked set to fall to rival.

Sony

A leading player in consumer electronics and already a music industry major so might run into competition problems, particularly in Europe. Its music group, which has acts such as Mariah Carey, Pearl Jam and Bruce Springsteen, has annual sales of more than £5.3bn according to 1995 figures. Labels include Columbia, Epic and Sony Music. Formed in 1964 out of the ruins of the Second World War. It now has interests in video, audio and television equipment as well as in films.

Dreamworks



A long shot. Film and media company set up by Steven Spielberg, David Geffen, the music mogul, and Jeffrey Katzenberg, the former Disney executive. With \$1bn of investment. It is bankrolled with equity and debt of \$2.7bn.

Bertelsmann



German media giant which is already one of the major music groups so might also face competition problems. In the midst of buying Random House for \$1bn and may therefore be pre-occupied with that deal. Third largest global media conglomerate after Disney and Time Warner. Founded in 1835 when Carl Bertelsmann started publishing Lutheran bibles. It has recently formed the BooksOnline venture to compete for the internet sales market. Has a strong presence in books, film and music.

Kirk Kerkorian



US corporate raider. Already has a controlling interest in MGM/United Artists, the film company and a string of casino and leisure interests. As a single bidder would struggle to generate synergies.

Safeway to sell the more fulfilling yoghurt

By Andrew Yates

SCOTIA, the drugs company behind Olibra, the new ingredient used in yoghurts which makes you feel fuller for longer, revealed yesterday it had teamed up with St Ivel to create a range of new desserts. Unigate, which owns St Ivel, will market the new products in the UK, Ireland, France and Italy.

Olibra was developed from a natural fat extract that triggers the release of chemicals that make the brain think the stomach is full. Scotia launched Olibra in January when it went on sale in Sweden as the key ingredient of Maval yoghurt, in

partnership with the Swedish food group Skanemejerier. Since its launch, Maval has won 2 per cent of the Swedish fruit yoghurt market and Scotia now plans to introduce Olibra to consumers around the world.

Olibra is being introduced in the UK under the brand name Skana Dairi Maval in an initial deal between Safeway and Skanemejerier. It is likely to be extended to other supermarkets by the end of the year.

Scotia also announced that it is trimming its product portfolio from 20 drugs to five. It is concentrating on cancer treatments which could be an alternative to chemotherapy.

US miracle gets even better

By Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

The gains helped the FTSE 100 closed higher in London. It was up 95 points at 5,923.

The first-quarter increase in GDP amounted to 4.2 per cent at an annual rate, the fastest growth since the same quarter last year. Consumer spending leapt by 5.7 per cent, more than double the previous quarter's rise.

Investment spending by businesses surged at a rate of nearly 18 per cent after a flat fourth quarter. Much of it was spending on computers, which climbed by 19 per cent to an annual rate of \$296.4bn.

"Domestic demand went ballistic," said Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at HSBC Securities in New York.

The economy would have grown even faster were it not for the biggest ever drop in the contribution of exports less imports to growth. Events in Asia reduced exports by 3.4 per cent, while imports surged 11.6 per cent.

Yet at the same time inflation could not have behaved better. The GDP deflator, the widest measure of inflation, slowed down, rising just 0.9 per cent during the quarter. The deflator for domestic demand fell by 0.1 per cent, the first quarterly decline since 1959.

Separate figures for employment costs also rose less than expected, indicating that the tight jobs market has not caused a pick-up in pay rises. It

Clean-up will add £65 to water bills

By Michael Harrison

achieved for an additional £18 a year on bills.

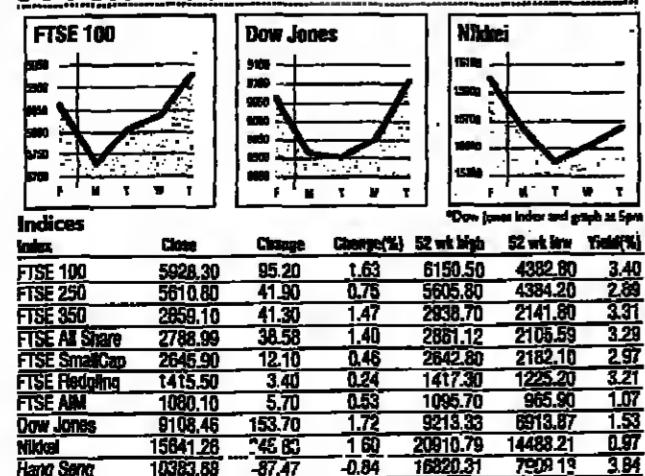
Shares in water companies fell on fears that the regulator would force the industry to bear more of the costs of meeting various European directives on environmental improvements, the water regulator Ian Byatt said yesterday.

This would be the equivalent of charges rising by 30 per cent more than the general inflation rate between 2000 and 2005, he added. The estimates are based on figures supplied by the water companies and assumes no offsetting efficiency savings.

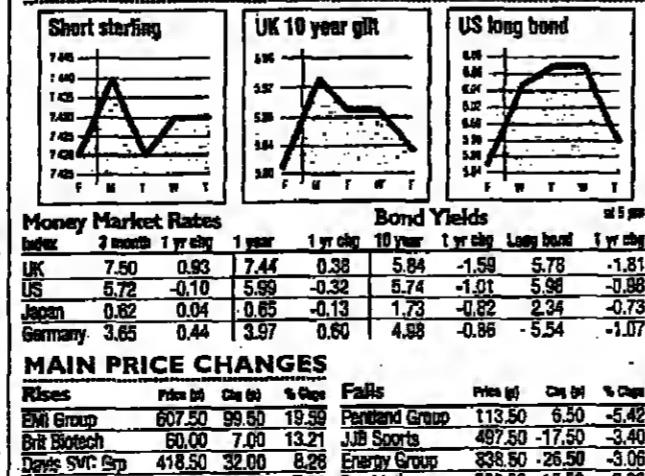
Mr Byatt said he disputed calculations made by the industry and estimated that the improvements could be

Yesterday in the markets

STOCK MARKETS



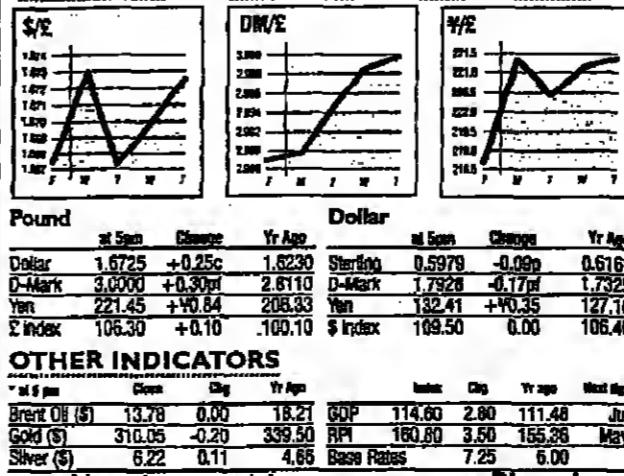
INTEREST RATES



MAIN PRICE CHANGES

	Price Up	Price Dn	% Chg	Falls	Price Up	Price Dn	% Chg	Falls
FTSE 100	5,923	5,828	-1.63	FTSE 100	6,150.50	4,382.80	-3.40	FTSE 100
Dow Jones	7,060	6,510	-0.76	Dow Jones	5,605.80	4,384.20	-2.68	Dow Jones
Nikkei	13,570	12,910	-4.47	Nikkei	12,910.70	11,241.60	-3.31	Nikkei
S&P 500	1,068	1,050	-1.72	S&P 500	1,056.70	903.97	-1.53	S&P 500
FTSE All Share	278.00	268.00	-3.58	FTSE All Share	286.12	210.65	-3.28	FTSE All Share
FTSE SmallCap	224.50	212.10	-0.45	FTSE SmallCap	265.20	218.20	-2.97	FTSE SmallCap
FTSE Housing	141.50	139.40	-0.24	FTSE Housing	141.20	122.20	-3.21	FTSE Housing
Dow Jones	106.10	57.00	-0.63	Dow Jones	106.50	96.50	-1.07	Dow Jones
Nikkei	156.41	153.70	-1.62	Nikkei	203.00	144.85	-0.97	Nikkei
Hang Seng	103.93	98.67	-0.84	Hang Seng	102.31	75.95	-3.19	Hang Seng
Dax	510.44	-1.04	-0.02	Dax	542.00	342.29	-1.53	Dax

CURRENCIES



OTHER INDICATORS

	Index	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Chg	Yr Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	13.78	0.00	18.21	114.80	2.00	111.48	Jub		
D-Mark (\$)	310.05	-0.29	339.50	160.80	3.50	155.36	May		
Gold (\$)	622.00	0.11	4.65	838.80	-26.50	-3.06	Silver (\$)	7.25	6.00
Gold (\$)	622.00	0.11	4.65	838.80	-26.50	-3.06	Silver (\$)	7.25	6.00
Gold (\$)	622.00	0.11	4.65	838.80</td					

nit
II fund
£2m
rs Bell

OUTLOOK ON THE UNSEEMLY AUCTION OF EMI, THE BATTLE FOR MORE GROUP, AND THE LATEST EPISODE IN THE PETER YOUNG SCANDAL

TWO months ago, this column wrote that unless Sir Colin Southgate, chairman of EMI, pulled his socks up, he and his company were toast. It has taken longer than first bid has rolled in. Thanks to EMI's internal e-mail system, we even know who it is and what the price might be. The company apparently informed EMI employees yesterday that it was Ed Bronfman's Seagram and that he was bidding 580p a share. Since the Stock Exchange was told only that an approach had been received from an unnamed party, this seems to be one of those rare instances of the staff knowing what's going on before the outside world.

But then this is the music business and they do like to play jokes, don't they. Hoax or not, the e-mail is an entirely believable one. Mr Bronfman is everyone's odds-on favourite, but his music surely be only the opening shot, bound to be followed in swift order by others. EMI is the only big international music company which it is remotely possible to bid for. Of the other major players, Sony and Time Warner are too big and diversified. Bertelsmann is privately owned, and PolyGram is controlled by Phillips. This gives EMI a rarity value which ought to ensure a fierce and bony competition auction.

Bertelsmann has bought Sir Colin Southgate's band once before, but in the end the merger proposed was so teutonic in structure that the EMI board had little difficulty in dismissing the approach before putting it to shareholders. In any case, competition issues, and the fact that Bertelsmann has just bought Random House

for cash, may keep the Germans on the sidelines this time round. Competition difficulties will be a big stumbling block for the rest of the big five too, but don't rule them out.

Meanwhile there are a host of powerful media players trying, in this multi-media world, to gain a foothold in the music business. Despite its best endeavours, Disney has thus far failed to grow a serious presence in the industry. The strategy here is to mirror Sony and Time Warner, which combine film and music product and distribution. Then there are the straight media distributors, such as Viacom. The list of possible suitors is almost endless, as well as almost wholly foreign.

How did it come to this – that Britain's leading music company should be auctioned off in this unseemly fashion in the showrooms of New York? The blame, if that is the right word, lies mainly with Sir Colin. In his pursuit of shareholder value, Sir Colin sold or demerged all around him until he was left with a pure music company which would obviously be attractive to bidders. No one can fault him for that. The problem is that since demerging from Thorn, EMI has been allowed to drift. As a symptom of that drift, there have also been some high-profile management restructurings, culminating in Sir Colin's failure to get his preferred successor, "Lucky" Jim Field, ratified by the board. To shareholders, the company has looked all at sea.

What's about to happen to EMI is a shame. In this company there was a chance to build a major British-based multi-media company encompassing

music, publishing and film. That chance seems to have been squandered.

At war over street furniture

FROM this side of the fence, it looks like the Napoleonic wars, Agincourt, Poitiers and Crecy all over again. The story so far: More Group, Britain's leading poster advertising company, last month agreed a £441m takeover bid from Clear Channel of the US. Embarrassingly, this bid was then topped by JC Decaux, a family-owned French company which just happens to be one of More Group's more aggressive competitors, particularly in the fast-growing market of advertising street furniture.

As a consequence, Roger Parry, chief executive of More Group, had to withdraw his recommendation of the Clear Channel bid and he is now technically neutral, awaiting a decision from the competition authorities on the Decaux bid and/or whether the Americans decide to better it. That's the official position, anyway. However, Jean-François Decaux, the younger of the father and son team that runs Decaux, does not believe it to be the case. He suspects that Mr Parry is against him and he cannot understand why.

Whatever the case, Decaux's bankers, Lazard Brothers, seem to have been putting a number of concerns to the Takeover Panel. The question is, should Mr Parry or his

officers be lobbying for a reference of the French bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, given that their shareholders could lose out if this happens? The French bid is worth 80p a share more.

Mr Parry is obviously aware that he has to maintain a strictly neutral stance in these things. There has been lobbying from Clear Channel, but you would expect that More Group and its officers, on the other hand, are under strict instructions to do nothing. Some interesting issues are raised by all this, none the less. Can companies really be expected to stand idly by and feign complete neutrality if they think a bid is anti-competitive and against the public interest?

Companies nearly always enjoin the competition authorities into the defence when faced by a hostile bid. The key point here, though, is that strictly speaking a defence can only be mounted on the basis that the board thinks the offer undervalues their company. It is then fair game to use any legal tactic available to see off the bidder. Plainly that is not the case in this bid since the board has already recommended a lower offer.

However, the difference is a subtle one and even the most ardent supporter of shareholder value would understand the difficulty most managements would have in being taken over by their head-to-head competitor. If Mr Decaux does succeed, the last laugh could be on him. Research shows that despite the obvious advantages of monopoly and scale that occur when two fiercely competing companies merge, the end result in terms of shareholder value is nearly always disastrous. Why? Because fierce competitors are rarely compatible, culturally or in

terms of their people, and the merged company is likely to become involved in years of debilitating infighting. We'll see.

Trustees pay the price

UNTIL the balloon went up, courtesy of Peter Young, the job of trustee to a unit trust must have seemed one of the easier ways of making money known to man, or at least to the City. Fund managers simply don't bend the rules by playing fast and loose with investors' money do they? The Morgan Grenfell Asset Management scandal rudely interrupted those assumptions and caused a scramble among trustees to ensure their compliance checks were up to scratch.

Peter Young was dismissed almost immediately although no other disciplinary action has yet been taken. Five other Morgan Grenfell executives have paid with their jobs too. The firm itself has paid both a hefty fine and compensation. Now, at last, 18 months after the scandal came to light, the regulatory authorities in the shape of Imro, have caught up with the trustees, first General Accident and then Royal Bank of Scotland.

It was their job to ensure Mr Young was investing clients' money within the rules, particularly those relating to what proportion of funds could be put into highly speculative, unlisted securities. They have now agreed to pay fines and costs totalling £800,000 – paltry set against the £220m that disappeared, but nevertheless proportionate to their role in the catalogue of failures that allowed the affair to happen.

Sale spells end for Hambros

By Lea Paterson

THE DEATH knell finally sounded for one of the City's oldest institutions yesterday when Hambros sold most of its remaining assets to Investec of South Africa for £428m.

The deal marks the end of the break-up process initiated last year following a series of difficulties at the bank.

Investec's offer, described as "full and fair" by analysts, does not include the bank's stakes in Hambros Countrywide, the estate agency, or Hambros Insurance Services (HIS). Both Countrywide and HIS

are to be demerged from the group.

Sir Chips Keswick, Hambros' chairman, said: "I believe that these proposed offers are attractive for the shareholders of Hambros and are the best available option for realising value. They will also provide a definitive solution to the future of Hambros."

The deal puts a break-up value on the company of 307p a share, at the top end of City estimates. Hambros' shares leapt on the news of Investec's offer and ended the day up 12.5p at 292.5p.

The Hambros' assets sold to Investec include a cash surplus

of £231m realised from the sale of the group's core banking business to Société Générale of France, a Canadian fund manager, and Hambros' diverse direct investment portfolio, comprising some 50 holdings.

The package also includes Hambros' 44 per cent stake in Guinness Flight Hambros Asset Management (Guinness Flight).

This will bring Investec's stake in Guinness Flight to 88 per cent following its acquisition of Guinness Management – another old British banking name – earlier this year. At the time of the Guinness Management sale, Guinness Flight management were thought to be unhappy with the new ownership arrangements and were said to be pushing for a management buy-out. An Investec spokesperson said yesterday that talks were ongoing between Investec and Guinness Flight management.

HIS, in which Hambros holds a 52 per cent stake, has appointed financial advisers DLJ Phoenix Securities to "assist in reviewing all options". This review may lead to an offer for the company.



Air attack Saab's Gripen fighter, which BAe already markets under a joint venture

BAe buys into Saab

By Michael Harrison

THE consolidation of Europe's defence and aerospace industries took a further step forward yesterday after British Aerospace agreed to pay £269m for a 35 per cent stake in Sweden's Saab, maker of the Gripen fighter aircraft.

BAe will also nominate three members of the nine-strong Saab board and jointly select its chairman and managing director along with Investec, the the Swedish group which owns the

business. The Saab investment is the second major European deal by BAe, which last year acquired Stemme Defence for just over £300m. The Saab deal does not include the car market, which is separately owned.

BAe already has extensive ties with Saab across a range of activities including fighter aircraft and aerostuctures.

BAe has a joint venture agreement to market the Gripen in wider export markets but yesterday's deal will give it a direct stake in the programme

Irish pubs have peaked, says Allied Domecq

ALLIED DOMEQ, the pub and spirits giant, yesterday said the Irish pub market had peaked and was in decline. Growth at its Firkin pub chains is also showing signs of slowing down amid intense competition among the major operators who are investing huge sums in the themed pub market. Allied has decided not to open any more of its Scruffy Murphy's Irish pub brand and is also refining back the expansion of the 178-strong Firkin chain. Instead the group is concentrating on growing the number of outlets designed to appeal to the family. Overall Allied's managed pub profits rose 6 per cent, a figure which disappointed industry analysts.

Investment column, page 26

Regan trust disappears

ENTREPRENEUR Andrew Regan's investment trust Lanica Trust effectively wrote its own obituary yesterday when it said it would amalgamate with coffee shop group City Gourmets. Lanica, whose shares were suspended last year, said City Gourmets would take over all its assets, debts, liabilities and obligations and the Lanica name would disappear, with shareholders receiving 1,093 City Gourmet shares in place of every Lanica share. Mr Regan, who last year made an unsuccessful and ultimately discredited attempt to take over the Co-operative Wholesale Society, will buy some of the group's assets for £204,750 in cash as part of the deal.

Peugeot drives profits up

THE COVENTRY-BASED car maker Peugeot reported its best profits for seven years on the back of record sales. Profits last year reached £52.5m, the highest since 1990 and £22m up on 1996, as sales of Peugeot cars reached 167,472. The increase will trigger a windfall profit related payout for the workforce at Ryton. Production last year was just below its record level at 85,500 and this year sees the introduction of a new model at Coventry backed by a £100m investment.

US airlines link up

UNITED AIRLINES and Delta Airlines announced a global link up and code-sharing deal – the third such alliance between leading US carriers this year. Delta and United said the alliance would generate savings of \$600m a year and would not involve any route closures. However, the link-up, coming hard on the heels of American-US Airways and Northwest-Continental, increases the risk that US antitrust authorities may decide to veto all three alliances.

Warning on euro

FAILURE to join the euro could result in Britain losing investment projects, the Chemical Industries Association warned. Chris Andrews, chairman of its business and trade board, urged the Government to decide on membership before the election. A CIA survey showed the UK chemical industry investment will reach £2.76bn this year and £2.78bn next – a 3 per cent fall on 1997 levels in real terms. Output this year is forecast to drop by 1 per cent due in part to the strength of sterling.

Consumers cool

CONSUMER confidence is cool as the series of interest rate rises begins to bite and post-election euphoria finally wears off, according to the latest quarterly bulletin from Business Strategies. Jacqui Timothy, managing economist, said rates should stay at their present level and forecast a soft landing for the economy this year with the strong service sector preventing manufacturing industry from dragging Britain into recession.

Texas bags Energy Group

By Michael Harrison

THE year long-battle for control of Energy Group, owner of Eastern Electricity, finally came to an end yesterday after Pacific Corp dropped out of the bidding, leaving Texas Utilities to clinch the takeover with a £4.45bn recommended offer.

The outcome prompted immediate speculation that the defeated bidder might turn its sights on another UK electricity company and shares in both PowerGen and National Power rose sharply.

Pacific Corp, which began the takeover tussle with a £3.9bn bid last June, withdrew after the

Takeover Panel intervened by ruling that the two US utilities had to submit sealed bids to decide the outcome of the contest.

There was confusion and irritation in the City as to why Pacific Corp had not pulled out earlier. The winning bid from Texas is worth 840p a share compared with the 820p offered by Pacific Corp, which was advised by Goldman Sachs.

Last night, Pacific Corp said it had decided not to increase its offer because it did not see "acceptable financial returns to Pacific Corp shareholders at values in excess of 820p."

One analyst, expressing a widely held view, said: "If that

was the case why did they out

pull out 10 days ago when Texas was cleared by the competition authorities to bid at 840p a share?"

Eric Nye, chairman of Texas Utilities, said he was pleased that the higher offer had prevailed. The Energy Group, led by chairman Derek Bonham, urged shareholders to accept the Texas offer as soon as possible. The offer closes on 19 May.

Energy Group, which also owns the US coal producer Peabody, which Texas has agreed to sell to Lehman Merchant Banking Partners for \$2.3bn. There are rumours that Pacific Corp may seek to acquire

Peabody as a consolation prize.

The conclusion to the long-running bid contest will make Eastern the eighth British regional electricity company to be taken over by an American utility. John Devaney, the executive chairman of Eastern, will be offered a senior position by the new owners but he is not expected to stay with the Energy Group.

Sources in the Texas camp

suggested that Pacific Corp may never have intended to raise its offer but by holding off making

an announcement was simply trying to "spoil" Texas

into bidding against itself. A Pacific Corp spokesman denied this.

Biotech investors demand action now

By Nigel Cope
Associate City Editor

LEADING institutional shareholders in British Biotech

stepped up the pressure on the beleaguered drug development company yesterday, urging the board to issue a full statement in the next few days or risk an emergency general meeting.

Major investors such as Perpetual, are becoming increasingly frustrated at the delaying tactics of the board, which has indicated that it could be several weeks before it issues a detailed circular countering allegations made by Dr Andrew Millar, its former

head of clinical trials who was sacked last week.

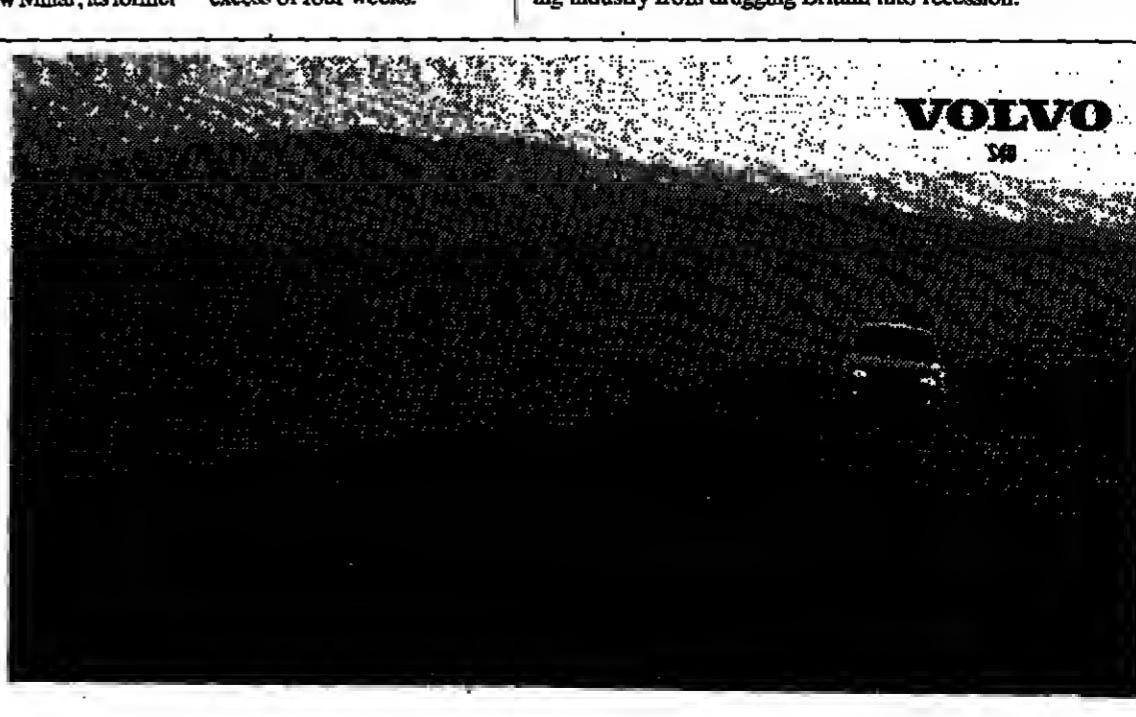
Bob Yerbury of Perpetual, said: "We continue to have concerns and they need to be addressed as a matter of urgency."

Another leading shareholder said: "We cannot be talking about weeks before this circular. It must be days. Shareholders and investors need to satisfy themselves as to whether there is any validity to these claims. I think there probably is and if so then there would need to be some changes to the front team."

British Biotech said: "We are preparing a comprehensive circular to prospectus standards. That would normally take in excess of four weeks."

OPENING UP THE VOLVO S40 EVEN MAKES OPENING UP YOUR PAY SLIP MORE PLEASURABLE.

The Volvo S40.
From £14,995 to £24,105.
Or from £338 per month via Contract Hire.
Call for a free copy of the Volvo S40 and V40 video (quoting ref: G5).
0800 100 140
VOLVO. A CAR YOU CAN BELIEVE IN.



VOLVO

S40

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN
EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

Allied needs some action

VER since Grand Metropolitan and Guinness announced a year ago that they were joining forces to create Diageo, the most powerful drinks group the industry had ever seen, Allied Domecq has come under growing pressure to do a deal of its own.

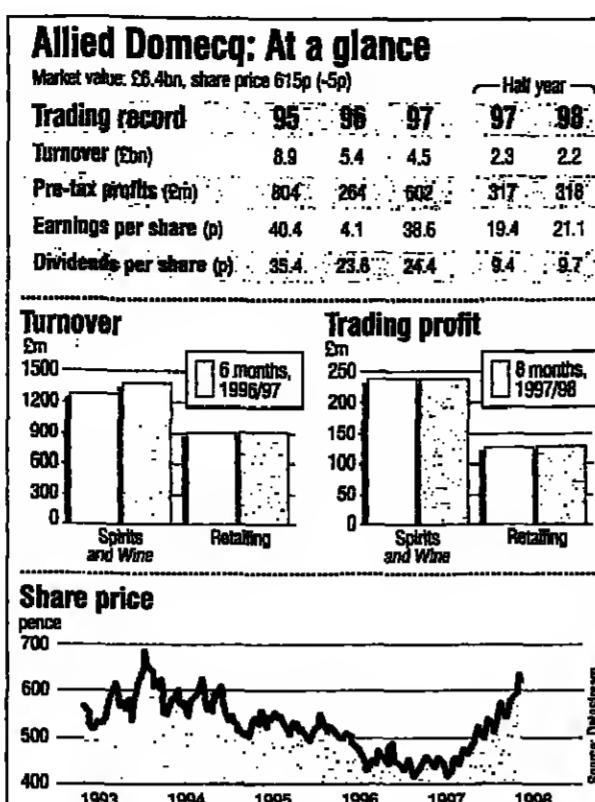
The logic of a merger has not been lost on the Allied board. The group is sitting in an uncomfortable position of being number two in a mature and static spirits market. Sensibly, in an industry where brands are becoming increasingly important, it has poured money into supporting its top sellers such as Ballantine's whisky and Beefeater gin. But that will not be enough to generate the sort of leap in profits that Diageo can enjoy as it launches a huge cost cutting campaign.

But masterminding a merger is much easier said than done. For a start the other big players in the drinks industry tend to be run by families, who will take more than a little persuading to give up control of their fiefdoms. Merger talks are taking much longer than Allied had anticipated. And word of chances of a full spirits merger with Seagram, which was always the most likely partner for Allied, are receding fast.

The problem is that while Allied is not doing anything wrong as such, it cannot afford to do nothing. Its share price, which has enjoyed a remarkable resurgence since the Diageo deal, will probably fall if all remains quiet on the corporate front.

Profits for the six months to February were flat at £320m. True the strength of sterling and the Asia crisis damped earnings. But the figure reveals a disappointing performance from its pub division, which is clearly underperforming the likes of Scottish & Newcastle.

Analysts forecast full year profits of around £610m, putting the shares, which fell 6p



to 615p yesterday, on a prospective p/e ratio of 15. Allied's shares are worth holding on to but until signs of deal emerge they do not look cheap.

Retail relief from Arcadia

THINGS have got so bad in the clothing retail sector that any results announcement that does not include a warning on trading is greeted with relief all round and a bounce in the share price. Such was the case yesterday with Arcadia, the former Burton business which demerged from Debenhams in January.

Its shares jumped 32p to 469.5p on first half profits up 21 per cent to £50m and news that current trading is satisfactory. This completes a good week for the two demerged Burton businesses after Debenhams also reported strong first half results earlier this week.

Not that everyone in the City is completely happy with

Arcadia's figures. The company has changed the way it presents its results. It no longer includes figures on like-for-like sales and has stopped breaking down the sales and profit performances of the individual formats, such as Principles, Top Man and Dorothy Perkins.

This suits the company, it says, because such information could be commercially sensitive. It also means the prying eyes of the City and the Press cannot see if any of the formats has fallen on hard times.

What we are given instead is retail sales densities which show a 6.3 per cent increase on the year. Slightly more worrying however is the slight dip in gross margin caused by higher mark-downs. After the wettest April in living memory there could be more price-cutting to come if the sun does not start shining soon.

John Hoerner, Arcadia's chief executive, is a canny operator and his plans to shuffle the portfolio with more Racing Green and Hawkshead shops are only at an early stage. It

However the shares already look up with events after a strong run in January and February which saw them rise from the 330p mark to 508p. Assuming profits of £182m in the full year, the shares trade on a forward rating of 15. That is a discount to the market but given the difficulties in the clothing sector at the moment it seems high enough.

Powerscreen problems

POWERSCREEN, the Northern Irish group which was rocked by an accounting scandal last January, yesterday sold the business that was blamed for all the problems.

Matbro's assets were offloaded for £7m, which pales into insignificance when you consider that the "irregularities" are likely to cost the company at least £46.5m in the year just ended, pushing the whole group about £10m into the red in the year to the end of March.

The group's auditors, KPMG, found cash-flow problems at Matbro, caused by mispricing products and excessive discounts. Powerscreen plans to write to its shareholders shortly, but for the time being it is keeping details of the auditors' findings under its hat.

Yesterday the shares rose 8.5p to 190p, but are still worth less than a third of the 625p at which the company placed 3 million new shares to help fund a couple of acquisitions just before Christmas.

Matbro was the group's star performer. There are vague rumours of an opportunistic bid for Powerscreen, while the shares are depressed, and the City is still expecting the company to make £30m in the year to March 1999, equal to earnings of 24p a share. But until the company is able to explain just what went on, and confirm that the damage has been confined to Matbro, it requires a real leap of faith to buy the shares.



Dr Tony O'Reilly, chairman: Said representations were being made to governments for a change in the law

Waterford weathers Asian storm

By Jeremy Warner

DUBLIN. This year it was London's turn. To allow participation of shareholders in Ireland, the company provided a satellite TV link to the Berkeley Court Hotel in Dublin. Unfortunately, this would have rendered the formal proceedings of the meeting invalid because company law makes it illegal for participation of shareholders based in different jurisdictions.

Dr Tony O'Reilly, chairman, said that representations were being made at government level for a change in the law.

As it turned out, there was only one

question from the floor of the meetings in London, but many from Ireland after the formal proceedings had been concluded.

Dr O'Reilly gave an upbeat statement on trading and prospects. "The group is weathering the storm in Asia Pacific and has capitalised on the strength of the North American market," he said.

"It has launched new products, developed new businesses, invested in its core competencies and nurtured its brands. 1998 is proceeding to plan and we look to the future with confidence."

Stagecoach buys into toll roads

By Michael Harrison

STAGECOACH, the acquisitive transport group, yesterday unveiled a major strategic shift by paying out £150m to expand into airport operation and toll roads.

The group is paying £41m to acquire Prestwick International Airport near Glasgow and £107m to take a 28 per cent stake in Road King, a Hong Kong-listed company which develops and operates toll roads in China.

The two deals will significantly expand Stagecoach's activities from its existing interests in the bus and rail markets and put it on a similar footing to National Express, which also has operations covering rail, road and airports.

In addition to its bus operations, it also owns South West Trains, the rolling stock leasing company Porterbrook, and a Swedish bus business, Swebus.

Road King, which is registered in Bermuda, operates just under 1,000 kilometres of tolled highways in eight Chinese provinces and made pre-tax profits of £17m in the year to 31 March, 1997.

Prestwick, Stagecoach is forming a new aviation subsidiary dedicated to building up airport operations in the UK and overseas.

Brian Souter, the Stagecoach chairman, said the funding would allow the group to expand into areas of transport where its culture and management could add value.

Stagecoach, which was founded by Mr Souter and his sister Ann Gloag, began as a coach operator in the early 1980s and has since grown into one of Britain's biggest transport groups.

In addition to its bus operations, it also owns South West Trains, the rolling stock leasing company Porterbrook, and a Swedish bus business, Swebus.

The new shares are being placed at 1060p and shareholders will be entitled to apply for two new shares for every 31 they hold.

Stagecoach shares rose 67.5p to close at 1208p.

Credit move by Park

By Clifford German

PARK Foods, the Merseyside-based supplier of food hampers on credit, is moving into the credit business proper, offering small loans through its network of door-to-door collectors.

The service is aimed at social classes C2, D and E and will build on Park Foods' existing customer base of up to 1 million purchasers of food hampers.

Initially customers will be offered credit in the form of vouchers which are exchangeable for goods at local stores, including Iceland, Argos and British Home Stores, and paid for over 26 weeks. But after completing one successful credit cycle, customers will be offered small loans of up to £100, which might typically be repaid at £5 a week.

The new business will be run by Derek Wheeler, 49, who has 25 years experience of the consumer credit business, mainly with Provident Financial, the leading UK provider of door-to-door credit.

Sodastream sold

By Andrew Verity

TWENTY years after telling British children to "get fizzy with the fizzy", SodaStream, the firm that brought us home-made fizzy drinks, has been swallowed by a Dutch-Israeli group for £15.5m.

Three directors of SodaStream, including Richard Handley, managing director, are expected to become millionaires after merging with the Soda-Club Group of the Netherlands and Israel.

SodaStream, a Peterborough-based company, triggered a craze in the 1970s with a TV campaign to persuade children to make their own soft drinks. By pressing a button, kids could inject carbon dioxide into a mixture of water and concen-

trate. Sales boomed in the 1970s but the machines went out of fashion in the 1980s. In 1985 Kenwood, then owners of SodaStream, sold the business to Cadbury Schweppes for £22.5m.

While the British company's business was flat, Soda-Club's results sparked as a new market was discovered in Germany, where hundreds of thousands of new machines are still sold every year.

The machines have grown popular in dry countries such as Israel, Morocco and Tunisia. Fountain House, a Canadian company which markets tonic water, has also entered a market which spans 16 countries.

Peter Wischurgh, chief executive of Soda-Club, said the combined group should achieve sales of £100m this year.

Leap in sales for insurers

By Andrew Verity

EVIDENCE of a boom in savings and investment mounted yesterday as two of the UK's largest insurers announced a leap in sales in the first three months of the year.

General Accident Life said new business in the first quarter had jumped by 25 per cent. That included a boost of 31.7 per cent in the amount of one-off, single premium savings brought in by its sales force.

A leap in sales of single-premium investments saw customers take up £208m of GA's Portfolio Bond, the company's flagship investment. New single premium pensions totalled £118m.

Peter Hales, assistant general manager at GA Life, said: "These are very satisfactory results, well in line with our long-term plans and likely to be ahead of market growth. We continue to achieve substantial growth on strong and profitable basis."

General Accident, GA Life's parent group, announced on 25 February that it was to merge with Commercial Union, one of its main rivals. The merger is set to be implemented by the end of June.

Commercial Union also reported a sharp boost in new business to its life insurance arm, particularly in one-off

sales. Worldwide, customers put premiums worth £981m into CU's coffers, up by 22 per cent from last year.

However, CU failed to match the sales of its merger partner in the UK. Sales of its Premier Investment Bond, which hit £83m last year, plummeted to £49m.

In contrast to GA, CU sees itself as an international company. Of its £789m in new business, £267m came from France.

CU forged a deal in Italy with Banca Popolare di Lodi, one of Italy's largest mutual banks. Single premiums in Italy leapt to £279m, a six-fold increase.

CU Polish life insurance operation, CUI Polska, has also seen new business jump by 25 per cent.

The results will boost confidence in the viability of the deal with GA, where most of the jump in new business came from British customers.

For both companies, the results from life insurance will help to offset a hefty financial blow to their general insurance operations this year. Both have been hit by a high level of claims stemming from bad weather in January.

Salomon Smith Barney, the investment bank, yesterday said shares in composite insurers such as GA and CU were now good value following a modest stockmarket correction.

Time 266MHz Family PC with Windows 98 & FREE PRINTER

266-2 Family PC 98™

£999 **£1173.83**

266M-2 TV FamilyPC 98™

£1099 **£1291.83**

47 UK Showrooms

Family PC Exec™ Models

Buy Now... Pay October '98 INTEREST FREE CREDIT

0% APR

Freephone Time Now!

0800 771107

TIME COMPUTER SYSTEMS

Offer ends 15th May

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Acres Group (F)	25.19m (30.03m)-2.9m (-6.3m)	-3.75 (-7.05)	nil (-)	
Advanced Power Cables (F)	3.26m (2.94m)	0.575m (0.465m)	1.75 (0.455)	0.49 (0.49)
Allied Domecq (F)	2.21m (2.319m)	320m (317m)	21.1p (19.4p)	8.75p (8.44p)
Arcofia (F)	77.63m (70.7m)	50.0m (41.2m)	19.1p (18.6p)	4.7p (4.1p)
Brewery Estates (F)	1.974m (1.788m)	1.352m (1.202m)	11.02p (9.47p)	3.6p (3.5p)
Brunel Leisure (F)	0.541m (1.788m)	-10.3m (0.418m)	4.5p (0.5p)	nil (-)
General Industries (F)	0.015m (-)	0.2p (-)	nil (-)	
Holiday House (F)	22.824m (13.51m)	0.278m (1.228m)	0.1p (4.1p)	nil (-)
MT Entertainments (F)	0.024m (0.025m)	1.148m (0.622m)	4.5p (3.4p)	0.55p (0.5p)
Intelligent Environments (F)	4.44m (3.48m)	-3.01m (-1.30m)	-13.3p (-7.05)	-1 (-)
Linton Park (F)	165.04m (169.35m)	17.75m (10.92m)	54.4p (38.5p)	16.0p (-)
Recycling Services (F)	12.255m (10.795m)	0.017m (0.412m)	0.1p (1.9p)	nil (0.5p)
UK Estates (F)	0.1 -	0.188m (0.181m)	0.33p (0.28p)	0.15p (0.15p)
Universe (F)	10.72m (9.265m)	0.257m (0.416m)	4.48p (0.97p)	nil (-)
Wimpey (F)	14.65m (14.06m)	1.35m (1.3m)	11.75p (11.28p)	5.0p (5.0p)
Westmorland Energy (F)	0.131m (0.095m)	-0.031m (0.065m)	-0.3p (0.5p)	-1 (-)
(F) - Final (F) - Interim (F) - Nine Months (F) - EPS is pre-exceptional				

Offer ends 15th May. Terms and conditions apply. Please read the offer document for full details. Offers close 15th May 1998. Offers are subject to availability. All offers subject to change. Offers are not combinable with other offers. Offers are not transferable. Offers are not redeemable. Offers are not transferable. Offers are not combinable with other offers. Offers are not transferable. Offers

Doubts are banished as EMI leads Footsie rally

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

EMI led the stock market higher as worries that the bull run was over evaporated. Confirmation that the showbiz group was takeover target helped Footsie to rally 95.2 points to 5,928.3. Supporting indices were also strong.

With financials recapturing some of their faded glory the market quickly took on a more positive appearance and, at least for the time being, the doubts which had nibbled at confidence were banished.

A strong New York and a further downgrading of higher interest rate fears were other encouraging influences.

EMI, in hectic trading, was at one time 129p higher; the shares closed at 607.5p, up 99.5p. Both EMI and its former partner, the Thorn rentals group, have had a depressing run since the demerger in the summer of 1996. EMI touched the equivalent of 738p; Thorn, on the

receiving end of a yet unidentified approach, rose 2p to 211p against a 402.5p high.

EMI's would-be acquirer is also a mystery although most feel it is Seagram, the Canadian drinks group which seems to get most of its kicks these days from its involvement in the entertainment industry.

Allied Domecq, the retailing and spirits group, fell 6p to 615p after six-month figures. If Seagram does bid for EMI, Allied, under pressure to develop its drinks side after the creation of Diageo, could find itself forced to embrace the Seagram spirits operation.

Financials were helped along by some chirpy analysts' comments and, in the case of insurers, good new business figures. Commercial Union, which has endured a depressing run, jumped 82p to 1,119p and its chosen partner, General Accident, put up 88p to 1,406p. Schroders rallied 143p to

2,933p and National Westminster Bank 42p to 1,197p.

Hambros, one of the City's oldest merchant banks with a 159-year pedigree, gained 12.5p to 292.5p after investors of South Africa made an agreed £428m offer. The estate agent and insurance operations are being demerged.

Energy, the electricity group, fell 26.5p to 638.5p as Texas Utilities emerged victorious from the titanic bid struggle with PacifiCorp. But PowerGen edged ahead another 10p to 808p as the market continued to toy with the idea that PacifiCorp could direct its sights on PG.

Wednesday's order-driven trading confusion left British Petroleum down from a fictitious 960p to 944.5p. At one time the shares were 39p lower at 921p. TI, the other casualty, closed up 22p to 537p.

British Aerospace's 35 per cent interest in Saab, the Swedish aerospace group, pushed the shares 3p (after

25p) higher to 1,998p. BG jumped 11.5p to 319.5p on Dresdner Kleinwort Benson support.

Water shares were ruffled by a suggestion from the industry regulator Ofwat that they could be more efficient. Thames Water was lowered 10p to 975p and United Utilities 15p to 832p.

NRP, the property group

now embracing stockbroker Teather & Greenwood, returned at 76.5p, against a 69.5p suspension price.

AMEC, the building group

which has been the subject of

takeover action, hardened

5.5p to 182p. A persistent

buyer has been evident.

Credit Lyonnais says buy-

ing: "The recovery is well under way".

MSB International, the

computer group, firmed 2.5p

to 970p after director Mark

Goldberg placed shares at

950p, raising £23.75m, which

gives him the wherewithal to

buy the 85 per cent of Crystal

Palace FC he does not own.

Belhaven Brewery enjoyed

a speculative run, gaining 10p

to 205p, a peak.

Finance director David Morrison said no

takeover approach had been

made. Greenalls, the hotel

and pub chain, was another to

collect a round of rumours; the

shares added 10.5p to 485p.

Scotia, the drug group,

improved 36.5p to 376.5p as

Ungulate became involved in

its Mavel yoghurt, which is

being presented as a slimming

aid. The yoghurt has been on

sale in Sweden since the start

of the year and launched re-

cently in this country under

the Scana Dairy Mavel name.

British Biotech was busily

traded, recovering 7p to 60p.

Zeneca gained 124p to 2,576p

after its breast cancer drug

Nolvadex, went to the US

Food and Drug Administra-

tion for approval and its mi-

graine drug was said to be safe

when taken with the anti-

depression treatment Proza-

Continuing, if faint, hopes

that the Glaxo Wellcome-

SmithKline Beecham merger

will be resurrected helped

SB 25.5p higher to 713p and

Glaxo 49p to 1,690p.

Inch Kenneth Kajang, the

Malaysian leisure and plan-

ing group, had another re-

markable session, gaining

250p to 625p. The shares

have risen 500p in two days.

A year ago they were 850p.

TAKING STOCK

SHIELD DIAGNOSTIC rose 50p to 627.5p as rumours of corporate action went round the market. Merck of the US and Roche of Switzerland were the names in the frame. The American group was said to plan a 950p bid; Roche

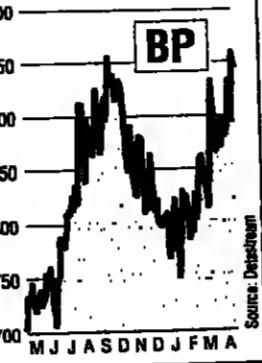
would be content with paying 800p a share for 30 per cent.

The only development was share buying by stockbroker Colin Blackbourn, a longtime fan of Shield. He lifted his stake to more than 3 per cent, believing the shares are "ridiculously cheap" and "unfairly tarnished as a speculative stock". By increasing his stake to a notifiable level he has, he says, put his money where his mouth is.

ROBERT WALTERS, the high flying recruitment group, shaded 11p to 467.5p after Merrill Lynch lowered its recommendation from buy to neutral. Its cut its profits forecast by £1m to £16m for this year and is looking for £12.8m next. The shares touched 574.5p last month.

Share Spotlight

share price, price



Source: Bloomberg

Ungulate became involved in its Mavel yoghurt, which is being presented as a slimming aid. The yoghurt has been on sale in Sweden since the start of the year and launched recently in this country under the Scana Dairy Mavel name.

British Biotech was busily traded, recovering 7p to 60p.

Zeneca gained 124p to 2,576p

after its breast cancer drug

Nolvadex, went to the US

Food and Drug Administra-

tion for approval and its mi-

graine drug was said to be safe

when taken with the anti-

depression treatment Proza-

Continuing, if faint, hopes

that the Glaxo Wellcome-

SmithKline Beecham merger

will be resurrected helped

SB 25.5p higher to 713p and

Glaxo 49p to 1,690p.

Inch Kenneth Kajang, the

Malaysian leisure and plan-

ing group, had another re-

markable session, gaining

250p to 625p. The shares

have risen 500p in two days.

A year ago they were 850p.

Scotia, the drug group,

improved 36.5p to 376.5p as

Ungulate became involved in

its Mavel yoghurt, which is

being presented as a slimming

aid. The yoghurt has been on

sale in Sweden since the start

of the year and launched re-

cently in this country under

the Scana Dairy Mavel name.

British Biotech was busily

traded, recovering 7p to 60p.

Zeneca gained 124p to 2,576p

after its breast cancer drug

Nolvadex, went to the US

Food and Drug Administra-

tion for approval and its mi-

graine drug was said to be safe

when taken with the anti-

depression treatment Proza-

Continuing, if faint, hopes

that the Glaxo Wellcome-

SmithKline Beecham merger

will be resurrected helped

SB 25.5p higher to 713p and

Glaxo 49p to 1,690p.

Inch Kenneth Kajang, the

Malaysian leisure and plan-

ing group, had another re-

markable session, gaining

250p to 625p. The shares

have risen 500p in two days.

A year ago they were 850p.

Scotia, the drug group,

improved 36.5p to 376.5p as

Ungulate became involved in

its Mavel yoghurt, which is

being presented as a slimming

aid. The yoghurt has been on

sale in Sweden since the start

of the year and launched re-

cently in this country under

the Scana Dairy Mavel name.

British Biotech was busily

traded, recovering 7p to 60p.

Zeneca gained 124p to 2,576p

after its breast cancer drug

Nolvadex, went to the US

Food and Drug Administra-

tion for approval and its mi-

Why global markets need to be open to free information flows



DIANE
COYLE
ON THE MOST
IMPORTANT
LESSON FROM
ASIA'S CRISIS

WE LIVE in an economy whose lifeblood is information. It is one of the things that everybody knows. Everybody, that is, save for one category of players in the world economy – governments. Governments need to wise up to the information age, not in terms of having the right kind of technology policy or enthusiasm about the internet in speeches, but in the more fundamental sense of recognising that less than full disclosure of information is an economic inefficiency as much as a matter of democracy. This is the deepest lesson of the Asian crisis.

There is a great appetite to draw lessons from Asia, to try to avoid repeats. The responses are tending to fall into two camps. One, the backlash camp, has concluded that globalisation is a Bad Thing, and needs to be tamed and resisted. It has a lunatic fringe but its more sensible proposals include introducing restrictions on inflows of foreign "hot money" by imposing reserve requirements for the first year of an inward investment – the system in Chile.

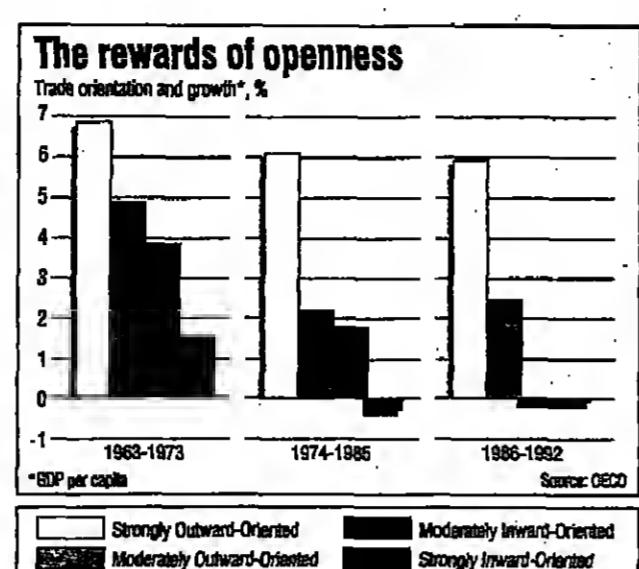
Another popular idea is a "Tobin Tax", a small tax on foreign-exchange transactions which would, in the words of its inventor, the Nobel laureate James Tobin, throw sand in the

wheels of the global markets when they are careering out of control.

The opposite point of view, the Panglossian camp that insists all is for the best in the globalising world economy, reckons the crisis reflects inadequate liberalisation. Its proponents will admit that globalisation causes upheavals and problems about the distribution of gains. Nevertheless, the gains are undeniable. A new report from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) this week, "Open Markets Matter", from which the taken, spells out the links between free trade, free investment and economic prosperity. The moral drawn by this camp is that, whatever the turmoil caused by the crisis, it is essential to press ahead with more and more deregulation and globalisation. Preventing crises is a matter of liberalising in a more measured way, perhaps, and with better supervision, but it must go ahead with minimal political interference.

Of course, the fact that the initial reactions have divided into two basically opposed camps has set the stage for a series of political rows over what has become known as the international financial architecture. Take the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), which crumpled at this week's OECD meeting, to the undisguised glee of some campaigners. The long negotiations had shaped this into a sensible set of rules, with some exclusions to defend national interests and the first ever recognition of basic environmental and social standards in a multilateral treaty. But it has been derailed by politicians recognising a domestic backlash against globalisation, even though they will privately admit that a new framework governing investment by multinationals is needed.

As France's minister of commerce put it at this week's OECD meeting, demanding a suspension of the talks: "Globalisation... has a fundamental human, social and environmental dimension which must



be taken into account from the start." It could not be left to the experts and diplomats alone, he argued.

However unfortunate the effects of French stubbornness on the MAI – a treaty which does more than most international financial agreements to recognise such concerns – it indicates that some more considered assessments of the Asian crisis and its lessons for globalisation are starting to filter through. For the backlash camp ignores the huge economic gains that the post-war process of globalisation has delivered, while the Panglossian camp overlooks the justified political concerns about the costs imposed by the way that process is occurring.

A recent paper by Harvard economics professor Dani Rodrik attempts to explain why some developing countries have enjoyed massive gains in per capita living standards while others have not. So, despite the past year's upheavals, Asia has fared well while Latin America has not. He finds the key is not simply the degree of openness to the world economy. Rather, it is how well different countries handle the turbulence that inevitably results from setting sail on the choppy seas of globalisation.

"How well" turns out to depend on institutional factors such as the degree of ethnic division within a country, the extent of military repression, the

quality of the civil service and so on. These influences – whose measurement is necessarily a bit rough and ready – explain more of the difference in growth than do conventional measures such as exports as a share of GDP.

Professor Rodrik concludes: "The main message that I take from the kind of evidence presented here is that it is not whether you globalise that matters, it is how you globalise. The world market is a source of disruption and upheaval as much as it is an opportunity for profit and economic growth."

Taking part in globalisation therefore demands a programme of institutional reform, which would include – on top of the IMF recipe of low government budget deficits, an anti-inflation strategy and privatisation – an improvement in the quality of the government apparatus. It would require increased democratisation in place of the typical technocratic approach to economic management in emerging markets. And it would need an improved social safety net so that the damage caused by crises like the present one in Asia do not fall entirely on the very poorest.

One of these themes is taken up by another economist, Rudi Dornbusch at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (in a paper available from his web site at <http://web.mit.edu/rudi/www/>). Professor Dornbusch is sym-

pathetic to proposals like a Tobin tax or controls on short-term capital. But he points out that they cannot prevent crises, any more than seat belts prevent car crashes: "A Tobin tax would not have avoided the Asian bankruptcy. Anybody who contemplated a 30 per cent depreciation will happily pay a 0.1 per cent tax."

He adds that high transaction costs in emerging markets add up to the equivalent of a Tobin tax anyway. Rather than emphasising capital controls or other brakes on globalisation, he concludes: "A modern answer to the question of integration with the world capital market is enthusiastically positive."

Capital markets deliver the potential for higher living standards and prevent governments from running bad economic policies – all round good news for savers, investors and workers. The catch with liberalisation as we know it, he argues, is a shortage of information to make it work properly.

For if modern economies rely on information, for the financial markets it is essential. Financial crises all, in some way, result from unexpected bad news. Crisis prevention depends on minimising the unexpected. The real lesson is not that financial systems in emerging markets need to be better supervised or sweetheart deals with cronies brought to an end. It is that maximum disclosure is absolutely key. Professor Dornbusch condemns the IMF and the credit rating agencies for their failure to transmit necessary information to the markets.

His conclusion can be taken one step further. It is not just to the markets that openness and transparency are essential. They are also fundamental to the political credibility of globalisation. People do not trust experts who tell them everything is all for the best when it patently is not. If one result of events in Asia is to help end the technocratic dominance of international finance, this will help ensure that globalisation really does deliver the benefits it promises.

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

JOHN
WILCOCK



cation order for the maximum 15-year period allowed against Stephen James Musker.

Mr Musker acted as a director of Stratton Europe, a company involved in the development of oil drift tagging technology in Billings, Cleveland.

An inquiry into Stratton in 1994 under the Companies Act, which was then confirmed by a court hearing, revealed Mr Musker's misconduct. This included, according to the DTI yesterday, "the production of a forged board minute, the issue of shares to himself and associates for no valid consideration, false representations to investors to induce them to invest, and the drawing of substantial personal benefits for himself and associates when the company was clearly unprofitable."

The court also considered "Mr Musker's record of involvement in a number of other corporate failures in recent years," the DTI said.

DAVID GRAY has been appointed finance director to Golf Club Holdings, a company which owns the Lambourne, the South Winchester and the Vale Golf Club, amongst others.

Which raises the obvious question: Do you have to be good at golf to get the job? "Not at all," replies Mr Gray, modestly. When asked whether he has a handicap, he says: "Only my lack of talent."

In fact, Mr Gray sees this lack of success on the fairway as a positive advantage, in that he will approach his job with a clear view, untainted by any enthusiast's passions.

He recalls his 15 years at Thorn EMI in order to back up his argument: "It's like anything else. You wouldn't expect Jim Fifefield to be a devastating rock'n'roll performer."

Mr Fifefield, of course, recently hit the headlines by receiving a £12m payoff from EMI when he left the music company.

Mr Gray gained valuable experience working as finance director for David Lloyd Leisure during the period when the former tennis star's company was floating.

But he is still proud of his comparative lack of sporting prowess. He says the "golf business is littered with the corpses" of businesses set up by golf nuts who fancied indulging their obsession.

IF YOU get fish fingers the next time you are invited to lunch at accountants Ernst & Young, here's why: Terry Carter of E&Y's corporate recovery team has just been appointed to restructure a Bulgarian fishing company, Okeanski Ribolov.

Terry was appointed by the Bourgas District Court following a request by shareholders. The business owns and controls port facilities in Bourgas, including a 400-metre wharf and a hotel. It also runs five fish freezing plants, three of which are currently out fishing in the Atlantic.

Mr Carter will compile a report for Bulgaria's Ministry of Industry, and will then attempt to sell the business as a going concern. So if you know of a market for Bulgarian fish fingers, give him a bell.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Sterling			Dollar			D-Mark		
	Spot	1 month	3 month	Spot	1 month	3 month	Spot	1 month	3 month
UK	10,000	2,5664	2,5664	0.5979	0.5989	0.6005	0.3326	0.3326	0.3326
Australia	2,2973	2,5641	2,5641	1,5350	1,5354	1,5354	0.8564	0.8564	0.8564
Austria	2,107	2,0861	2,0861	1,2624	1,2624	1,2624	0.7249	0.7249	0.7249
Belgium	6,1664	6,2777	6,1608	3,7048	3,6982	3,6982	2,4025	2,4025	2,4025
Canada	2,07	2,0861	2,0861	1,2624	1,2624	1,2624	0.7249	0.7249	0.7249
Denmark	11,449	11,449	11,449	6,4546	6,4546	6,4546	3,8164	3,8164	3,8164
ECU	1,180	1,180	1,180	1,0107	1,0107	1,0107	0.9989	0.9989	0.9989
Finland	9,155	9,0861	9,0309	5,6013	5,6408	5,6228	3,4047	3,4047	3,4047
France	10,154	10,154	10,154	6,5013	6,5013	6,5013	4,3047	4,3047	4,3047
Germany	2,2973	2,5641	2,5641	1,5350	1,5354	1,5354	0.8564	0.8564	0.8564
Greece	2,2973	2,5641	2,5641	1,5350	1,5354	1,5354	0.8564	0.8564	0.8564
Hong Kong	12,957	12,843	12,927	7,4707	7,5005	7,5005	4,3212	4,3212	4,3212
Iceland	1,207	1,207	1,207	0.8564	0.8564	0.8564	0.8564	0.8564	0.8564
Ireland	2,2973	2,5641	2,5641	1,5350	1,5354	1,5354	0.8564	0.8564	0.8564
Japan	2,2973	2,5641	2,5641	1,5350	1,5354	1,5354	0.8564	0.8564	0.8564
Malaysia	8,274	8,274	8,274	5,6013	5,6408	5,6228	3,4047	3,4047	3,4047
Mexico	14,198	14,198	14,198	10,000	10,000	10,000	6,5013	6,5013	6,5013
Netherlands	3,3892	3,3570	3,3570	2,0211	2,0158	2,0158	1,2728	1,2728	1,2728
New Zealand	3,008	3,007	2,9908	2,0255	2,0255	2,0255	1,2728	1,2728	1,2728
Norway	12,424	12,424	12,424	7,4707	7,5005	7,5005	4,3212	4,3212	4,3212
Portugal	3,008	3,008	3,008	2,0211	2,0158	2,0158	1,2728	1,2728	1,2728
Singapore	1,207	1,207	1,207	0.8564	0.8564	0.8564	0.8564	0.8564	0.8564
South Africa	8,4543	8,4543	8,4543	5,6013	5,6408	5,6228	3,4047	3,4047	3,4047
Spain	12,957	12,843	12,927	7,4707	7,5005	7,5005	4,3212	4,3212	4,3212
Sweden	2,2973	2,5641	2,5641	1,5350	1,5354	1,5354	0.8564	0.8564	0.8564
UK	10,723	10,723	10,723	6,4546	6,4546	6,4546	4,3047	4,3047	4,3047
USA	10,723	10,723	10,723	6,4546	6,4546	6,4546	4,3047	4,3047	4,3047

Other Spot Rates

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling</
---------	----------	--------	---------	------------

Godolphin delegation drops Embassy

By Richard Edmondson

THE ABSENTEE notes start to collect yesterday in advance of this weekend's Guineas meeting at Newmarket and the most notable omission will be Godolphin's Embassy from the fillies' Classic.

Last season's Cheveley Park winner has survived the aircraft food on the journey from the Emirates, but, like plastic cutlery, she is to be saved for another day.

"Her progress has not been as good as we have wanted for Sunday and it would not have been fair on her to run," Simon

Crisford, Godolphin's racing manager, said yesterday. "That said, we are pleased with her. She is doing well."

The Arabian team will now be represented only by Cape Verdi and is not exactly compromised by having just a single warrior in the contest. Cape Verdi was heavily backed once again yesterday and the former property of Robert Sangster finished trading at 7-4 (from 2-1) with a further probable scratch.

ing from the 1,000 Guineas was Lady In Waiting. Paul Cole has been unable to exercise his filly for the last two mornings

because of her damaged foot and she now appears unlikely to attempt to translate her good gallops form to the Newmarket flatlands.

"It is looking unlikely that she will run," the Whitemore trainer said yesterday. "She has a problem and missed work again this morning."

Cole's former inmate Central Park now seems to be Godolphin's main weapon in tomorrow's 2,000 Guineas.

The colt will be steered by Frankie Dettori, while the travelling side's No 2, Almutawakel, will be left in the hands of John Car-

roll.

NEWMARKET 2.35: Much interest will focus here on Mutawakel, who flies the Godolphin banner. The performance of Frankie Dettori's mount could indicate the quality of the Godolphin challenge in this weekend's big events. It would be unwise, though, to ignore the claims of SENSORY. The dry ground will be tested this afternoon when Mutawakel is produced alongside the re-

gally bred debutant Nasayem. They will at least have the benefit of good ground unrecognised by most garden-lenders recently in Britain.

"It was dry today and dry yesterday and the forecast is pretty encouraging for the weekend," Nick Lees, the Newmarket clerk of the course, said yesterday. "It [the forecast] is warm on Saturday and hot on Sunday, so things are looking up. There will be good ground for tomorrow and Saturday unless anything untoward happens."

This relative Suffolk desert witnesses the seasonal reappearance today of the St Leg-

er winner Silver Patriarch, whose effort (for breeding syndication purposes) to be established as the leading 12-furlong creature has been facilitated by the retirement of Peintre Celebre.

Those close to the horse inform that we will see a far more mature beast emerge from the saddling area this afternoon for the Jockey Club Stakes. It will be no easy task for Silver Patriarch, however, as his opponents include more than water-bearers. The bonny Celeric is his stable's support side, while the Derby third Ro-

manov, and the talented cou-

pling of Kingfisher Mill and Happy Valentine, will also ensure this is much more than a triumphal march.

There is a further Group contest in Sagaro Stakes which has been kept in cold storage from Ascot's abandoned Wednesday card. There is a great favourite (if not a market favourite) here in Double Trigger, who will wrestle with the likes of Persian Punch and Busy Flight.

Today's scheduled race meeting at Newton Abbot was abandoned yesterday because the track was waterlogged.

Results, page 31

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

2.35: JILA won readily by three lengths over course and distance 17 days ago. Despite being raised to the handicap by Sir Robert Armstrong's colt can put his finishing kick to good effect against today's rivals. Chattan, drawn on the wide outside, also won on his reappearance - at Doncaster last month - and poses a big threat.

3.10: A fascinating clash between older horses expected to be leading lights in top middle-distance races this summer. Fitness at this early stage of the season may well decide which of SILVER PATRIARCH, Kingfisher Mill and Romeoic takes the honours today. News from Sussex is that the first-named is in fine shape for his seasonal debut.

3.16: A 10-furlong race for 3-year-olds at Newmarket. The performance of Frankie Dettori's mount could indicate the quality of the Godolphin challenge in this weekend's big events. It would be unwise, though, to ignore the claims of SENSORY.

The dry ground will be tested this afternoon when Mutawakel is produced alongside the re-

gally bred debutant Nasayem.

They will at least have the benefit of good ground unrecognised by most garden-lenders recently in Britain.

4.15: A 10-furlong race for 3-year-olds at Newmarket. The performance of Frankie Dettori's mount could indicate the quality of the Godolphin challenge in this weekend's big events. It would be unwise, though, to ignore the claims of SENSORY.

The dry ground will be tested this afternoon when Mutawakel is produced alongside the re-

gally bred debutant Nasayem.

They will at least have the benefit of good ground unrecognised by most garden-lenders recently in Britain.

4.15: A 10-furlong race for 3-year-olds at Newmarket. The performance of Frankie Dettori's mount could indicate the quality of the Godolphin challenge in this weekend's big events. It would be unwise, though, to ignore the claims of SENSORY.

The dry ground will be tested this afternoon when Mutawakel is produced alongside the re-

gally bred debutant Nasayem.

They will at least have the benefit of good ground unrecognised by most garden-lenders recently in Britain.

4.15: A 10-furlong race for 3-year-olds at Newmarket. The performance of Frankie Dettori's mount could indicate the quality of the Godolphin challenge in this weekend's big events. It would be unwise, though, to ignore the claims of SENSORY.

The dry ground will be tested this afternoon when Mutawakel is produced alongside the re-

gally bred debutant Nasayem.

They will at least have the benefit of good ground unrecognised by most garden-lenders recently in Britain.

4.15: A 10-furlong race for 3-year-olds at Newmarket. The performance of Frankie Dettori's mount could indicate the quality of the Godolphin challenge in this weekend's big events. It would be unwise, though, to ignore the claims of SENSORY.

The dry ground will be tested this afternoon when Mutawakel is produced alongside the re-

gally bred debutant Nasayem.

They will at least have the benefit of good ground unrecognised by most garden-lenders recently in Britain.

4.15: A 10-furlong race for 3-year-olds at Newmarket. The performance of Frankie Dettori's mount could indicate the quality of the Godolphin challenge in this weekend's big events. It would be unwise, though, to ignore the claims of SENSORY.

The dry ground will be tested this afternoon when Mutawakel is produced alongside the re-

gally bred debutant Nasayem.

They will at least have the benefit of good ground unrecognised by most garden-lenders recently in Britain.

4.15: A 10-furlong race for 3-year-olds at Newmarket. The performance of Frankie Dettori's mount could indicate the quality of the Godolphin challenge in this weekend's big events. It would be unwise, though, to ignore the claims of SENSORY.

The dry ground will be tested this afternoon when Mutawakel is produced alongside the re-

gally bred debutant Nasayem.

They will at least have the benefit of good ground unrecognised by most garden-lenders recently in Britain.

4.15: A 10-furlong race for 3-year-olds at Newmarket. The performance of Frankie Dettori's mount could indicate the quality of the Godolphin challenge in this weekend's big events. It would be unwise, though, to ignore the claims of SENSORY.

The dry ground will be tested this afternoon when Mutawakel is produced alongside the re-

gally bred debutant Nasayem.

They will at least have the benefit of good ground unrecognised by most garden-lenders recently in Britain.

4.15: A 10-furlong race for 3-year-olds at Newmarket. The performance of Frankie Dettori's mount could indicate the quality of the Godolphin challenge in this weekend's big events. It would be unwise, though, to ignore the claims of SENSORY.

The dry ground will be tested this afternoon when Mutawakel is produced alongside the re-

gally bred debutant Nasayem.

They will at least have the benefit of good ground unrecognised by most garden-lenders recently in Britain.

4.15: A 10-furlong race for 3-year-olds at Newmarket. The performance of Frankie Dettori's mount could indicate the quality of the Godolphin challenge in this weekend's big events. It would be unwise, though, to ignore the claims of SENSORY.

The dry ground will be tested this afternoon when Mutawakel is produced alongside the re-

gally bred debutant Nasayem.

They will at least have the benefit of good ground unrecognised by most garden-lenders recently in Britain.

4.15: A 10-furlong race for 3-year-olds at Newmarket. The performance of Frankie Dettori's mount could indicate the quality of the Godolphin challenge in this weekend's big events. It would be unwise, though, to ignore the claims of SENSORY.

The dry ground will be tested this afternoon when Mutawakel is produced alongside the re-

gally bred debutant Nasayem.

They will at least have the benefit of good ground unrecognised by most garden-lenders recently in Britain.

4.15: A 10-furlong race for 3-year-olds at Newmarket. The performance of Frankie Dettori's mount could indicate the quality of the Godolphin challenge in this weekend's big events. It would be unwise, though, to ignore the claims of SENSORY.

The dry ground will be tested this afternoon when Mutawakel is produced alongside the re-

gally bred debutant Nasayem.

They will at least have the benefit of good ground unrecognised by most garden-lenders recently in Britain.

4.15: A 10-furlong race for 3-year-olds at Newmarket. The performance of Frankie Dettori's mount could indicate the quality of the Godolphin challenge in this weekend's big events. It would be unwise, though, to ignore the claims of SENSORY.

The dry ground will be tested this afternoon when Mutawakel is produced alongside the re-

gally bred debutant Nasayem.

They will at least have the benefit of good ground unrecognised by most garden-lenders recently in Britain.

4.15: A 10-furlong race for 3-year-olds at Newmarket. The performance of Frankie Dettori's mount could indicate the quality of the Godolphin challenge in this weekend's big events. It would be unwise, though, to ignore the claims of SENSORY.

The dry ground will be tested this afternoon when Mutawakel is produced alongside the re-

gally bred debutant Nasayem.

They will at least have the benefit of good ground unrecognised by most garden-lenders recently in Britain.

4.15: A 10-furlong race for 3-year-olds at Newmarket. The performance of Frankie Dettori's mount could indicate the quality of the Godolphin challenge in this weekend's big events. It would be unwise, though, to ignore the claims of SENSORY.

The dry ground will be tested this afternoon when Mutawakel is produced alongside the re-

gally bred debutant Nasayem.

They will at least have the benefit of good ground unrecognised by most garden-lenders recently in Britain.

4.15: A 10-furlong race for 3-year-olds at Newmarket. The performance of Frankie Dettori's mount could indicate the quality of the Godolphin challenge in this weekend's big events. It would be unwise, though, to ignore the claims of SENSORY.

The dry ground will be tested this afternoon when Mutawakel is produced alongside the re-

gally bred debutant Nasayem.

They will at least have the benefit of good ground unrecognised by most garden-lenders recently in Britain.

4.15: A 10-furlong race for 3-year-olds at Newmarket. The performance of Frankie Dettori's mount could indicate the quality of the Godolphin challenge in this weekend's big events. It would be unwise, though, to ignore the claims of SENSORY.

The dry ground will be tested this afternoon when Mutawakel is produced alongside the re-

gally bred debutant Nasayem.

They will at least have the benefit of good ground unrecognised by most garden-lenders recently in Britain.

4.15: A 10-furlong race for 3-year-olds at Newmarket. The performance of Frankie Dettori's mount could indicate the quality of the Godolphin challenge in this weekend's big events. It would be unwise, though, to ignore the claims of SENSORY.

The dry ground will be tested this afternoon when Mutawakel is produced alongside the re-

gally bred debutant Nasayem.

They will at least have the benefit of good ground unrecognised by most garden-lenders recently in Britain.

4.15: A 10-furlong race for 3-year-olds at Newmarket. The performance of Frankie Dettori's mount could indicate the quality of the Godolphin challenge in this weekend's big events. It would be unwise, though, to ignore the claims of SENSORY.

The dry ground will be tested this afternoon when Mutawakel is produced alongside the re-

gally bred debutant Nasayem.

They will at least have the benefit of good ground unrecognised by most garden-lenders recently in Britain.

4.15: A 10-furlong race for 3-year-olds at Newmarket. The performance of Frankie Dettori's mount could indicate the quality of the Godolphin challenge in this weekend's big events. It would be unwise, though, to ignore the claims of SENSORY.

The dry ground will be tested this afternoon when Mutawakel is produced alongside the re-

gally bred debutant Nasayem.

They will at least have the benefit of good ground unrecognised by most garden-lenders recently in Britain.

4.15: A 10-furlong race for 3-year-olds at Newmarket. The performance of Frankie Dettori's mount could indicate the quality of the Godolphin challenge in this weekend's big events. It would be unwise, though, to ignore the claims of SENSORY.

The dry ground will be tested this afternoon when Mutawakel is produced alongside the re-

gally bred debutant Nasayem.

They will at least have the benefit of good ground unrecognised by most garden-lenders recently in Britain.

4.15: A 10-furlong race for 3-year-olds at Newmarket. The performance of Frankie Dettori's mount could indicate the quality of the Godolphin challenge in this weekend's big events. It would be unwise, though, to ignore the claims of SENSORY.

The dry ground will be tested this afternoon when Mutawakel is produced alongside the re-

gally bred debutant Nasayem.

They will at least have the benefit of good ground unrecognised by most garden-lenders recently in Britain.

4.15: A 10-furlong race for 3-year-olds at Newmarket. The performance of Frankie Dettori's mount could indicate the quality of the Godolphin challenge in this weekend's big events. It would be unwise, though, to ignore the claims of SENSORY.

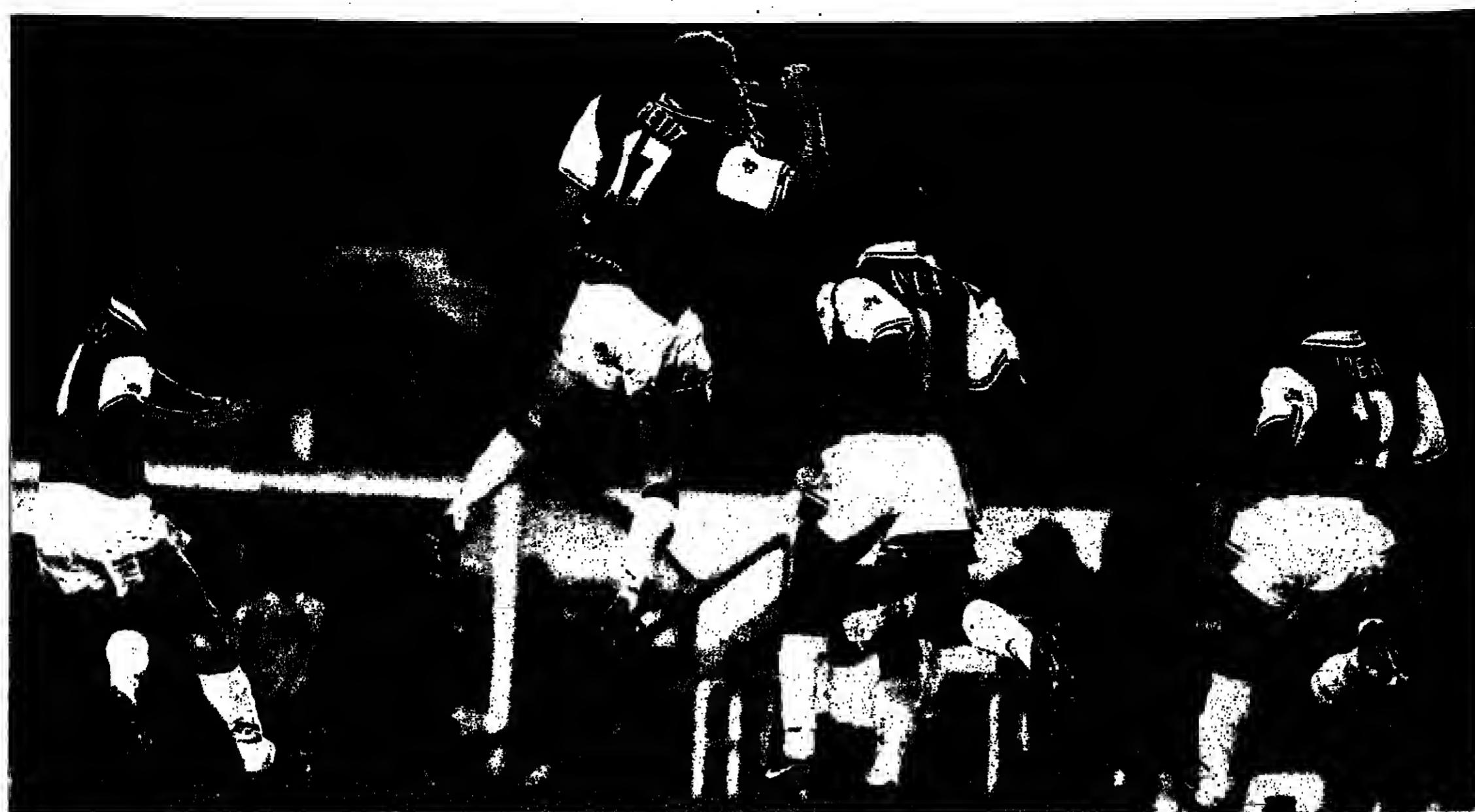
The dry ground will be tested this afternoon when Mutawakel is produced alongside the re-

gally bred debutant Nasayem.

They will at least have the benefit of good ground unrecognised by most garden-lenders recently in Britain.

4.15: A 10-furlong race for 3-year-olds at Newmarket. The performance of Frankie Dettori's mount could indicate the quality of the Godolphin challenge in this weekend's big events. It would be unwise, though, to ignore the claims of SENSORY.

The dry ground will be tested this afternoon when Mutawakel is produced alongside the re-



Red revolution: Arsenal's players celebrate another goal in a season during which their style of play under Arsène Wenger is turning the club into byword for sophistication and charm

Photograph: Allsport

Suddenly everyone loves Arsenal

IT MAY be placing a curse over a fabulous season, but this lifelong Arsenal fan has a prediction to make, and it terrifies him. Our club is running a serious risk of becoming the most popular in the land. Worse than that, it could even turn into a national institution. One by one, the elements are falling into place. Nick Hornby's *Fever Pitch* provides the historical chronicle, a deep trough of the emotions of an Arsenal fan at which parched newcomers may drink. Then we have the glittering present, a string of performances that has all at once rendered Manchester United, the nearest thing we presently have to a national institution, as dated — and exciting — as last week's stock prices. And then there's Arsène Wenger. But of him more in a moment.

A singularly misguided writer in the *Evening Standard* recently predicted that, come the Cup final, an orgy of old fashioned Arsenal-hating would burst over the land, and that Newcastle would be every neutral's favourite. You do not have to be a believer to know the reverse is true — and not merely as a result of the grace, loquacity and affability of Kenny Dalglish.

Suddenly we have a team that everyone

After decades of his team being called boring, Rupert Cornwell, a life-long Arsenal supporter, explains why he is terrified they may become the most popular in the land

loves. In our most euphoric moments, some of us like its style to that of the "Total Football" Dutch sides which every uncommitted follower of football vainly prayed would win the World Cups of 1974 and 1978. For Overmars read Rensenbrink, for Bergkamp read Cruyff. No longer is Arsenal just a dreary winning machine. Forced for decades to find virtue in the long haul up the centre and the hoof into the upper deck, to our amazement we find ourselves at the vanguard of the Beautiful Game.

In truth, "Boring Arsenal" was always a bit unfair — the 1989 and 1991 Championship sides scored goals by the hatful, and the brief flowering of the Liam Brady/Frank Stapleton team of the late 1970s, cut short by Brady's defection to Juventus which even 18 years later still rankles, remains a golden memory. But, yes, it can't be disputed: by and large we were pretty dull, and in the late 50s, mid 60s and mid 80s we sometimes bordered on the awful. But vilification bred fierce clan loyalty. Now, lo and behold, we risk becoming a by-

word for sophistication and charm. For long time pilgrims to London N5, this transformation is seriously disorienting.

For despite the Johnnie-Come-Latelies who always hitch their allegiance to a rolling bandwagon, Arsenal's fan base probably hasn't greatly changed. Yes, football's gentrified and ultra-fashionable, and restaurants are replacing pubs as gathering places for the faithful. Yet, the sport has a rich business following, but then there always was. Residents complain of siege by limo on Saturday afternoons — but some of my first forays to Highbury were in walnut-panelled Daimlers (which my father would insist on driving, with the windows sealed as he puffed on a cigar of Churchillian dimensions). But let the flash Harrys go to Chelsea. At heart Arsenal is still the neighbourhood team. Newcastle has Tony Blair, Blackburn has Jack Straw, and Tottenham in the Glory, Glory Hallelujah days had Freddie Ayer. I have called around to check, but the best anyone can come up with for Arsenal in the celebrity supporter stakes is Melvyn Bragg.

And the terrace poetry hasn't improved much either. These days, *grace à Arsène*, the verses have a more cosmopolitan hue: "He comes from Seneg-AL, he plays for Arsén-AL," for instance, in honour of Patrick Vieira, these days the North Bank's supreme favourite; or "He's blond, he's quick, he's named after a porno flick," eulogizing Emmanuel Petit, the other French titan of the midfield. The subject matter may be more ambitious, but in terms of scansion not a patch on "Six foot two and eyes of blue, Willie Young is after you," the chant in honour of the lumbering Scottish defender of blessed memory, responsible for the odd mazy dribble and one or two of the most thunderous own goals in Arsenal history (among them a header in the Manchester United game of April 1, 1978, that left Pat Jennings frozen as a statue). Or, going back even further, "Bertie Mee said to Bill Shankly, 'Have you heard of the North Bank, 'Ighburee...'"

And then there's Arsène. Even after his 1971 double, Bertie Mee never acquired a

fraction of the star quality radiating from Wenger before the possible repeat of 1998. What is it about these Frenchmen that so bewitch us? What came of our national contempt for the "bottomless superficiality" of the ancient foes from across the Channel? First Eric Cantona, the thinking man's footballer — artist, actor and poet on the side. Now Wenger, mysterious and cooler than Cool Britannia could ever dream of, who turns the post-match press conference into a Cartesian dissection of the footballing universe.

Did I detect an "over the moon" the other day? Maybe, but the gallic tilt of the studious, unfailingly polite Wenger, occasionally to be found in post-match rumination in a local restaurant, can turn Gaffer-speak into Racine. Small wonder the reporters feel like pupils at the feet of the master. So welcome to the new Arsenal, multi-national, multifaceted, the blending of the best of British with the best of Europe. Isn't this what Blairism's all about? And, with New Labour's nose for a vote-winner, I can't believe our Prime Minister (lately of North London moreover), will be supporting Newcastle for long after 16 May. Thus will cult-status be sealed. Whether that's what I want is quite another matter.

Meanwhile, a senior European athletics coach gave his support to De Bruin and accused the sport of sour grapes. The alcohol level was so high that you could not survive with that concentration," he said, adding that it was possible that either it "is not her urine or that it's manipulated urine" and that alcohol could be used to mask the presence of other drugs in a sample. He said two drug testers, a man and a woman, were present for De Bruin's doping control.

Meantime a senior European athletics coach gave his support to De Bruin and accused the sport of sour grapes.

David McCreamney, who coaches in Belgium, saw De Bruin train for four months before the Atlanta Games. He said: "Michelle ate, worked and slept training under the guidance of her husband Erik. She would swim all morning, sleep in the afternoon and train again in the evening. She got there through a lot of hard work and structured training."

Meanwhile, it was claimed yesterday that around 70 percent of top-class sportsmen are cheating with drugs. Matthew Yates, a former European 1,500m indoor champion, and Britain's former 400m runner Derek Redmond, said they believed most athletes who appeared in a final at the top level were taking banned substances.

Yates made his claim in a debate about drugs in sport on BBC radio and Redmond added: "I have heard the 70 per cent figure and I wouldn't be surprised. It is going on in the world of athletics."

Sturgess puts his career back on road

Cycling

By Robin Nicholl

NINE years ago, Colin Sturgess was a world track champion. Today he races in the Travelling four-day Tour of Lancashire with some catching up to do after studying for a university degree, emigrating to Australia and editing a cycling magazine.

Having put his professional racing career on hold in 1993, Sturgess, a former British road race champion, got back on a bike while covering the world track championships in Perth, Western Australia. Then, his South African protégé, David George, won an under-23 world time trial bronze in San Sebastian, and Sturgess was fired up for a comeback. After a medal-winning performance in the Australian track championships, Sturgess returned to Britain to re-establish his international career at the age of 29.

He was due to ride in a French race but the trip fell through, so Sturgess was switched to the 260-mile Tour which opens today on a Peak District circuit near Oldham.

Another late inclusion is the British road race champion, Jeremy Hunt, whose 10 victories last year in internationally recognised races put him among the top nine most successful riders of the year.

TOUR OF LANCASHIRE: Today, Lytham-St Annes, 100 miles (160km); Tomorrow, Blackpool, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Fleetwood, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Morecambe, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Lancaster, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Wednesday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Thursday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Friday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Saturday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Sunday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Monday, Kendal, 100 miles (160km); Tuesday, Kendal, 100 miles (1

Laid-back approach keeps Doherty on course

Snooker

By Guy Hodgson
at The Crucible, Sheffield

KEN DOHERTY says he is under pressure but you would be hard put to find evidence of it. Like David Gower, who looked as though batman was merely an extension to his social whirl, he has been playing at the Embassy World Championship as if an enemy's life depended on it.

Successfully, too, because he established a 6-2 lead in his

semi-final against Mark Williams yesterday and is seriously threatening to follow up last year's win with an appearance in the final. He requires 11 frames over three sessions to-day and tomorrow.

His sang-froid, he maintains, is because he has achieved his life's ambition. He wanted to be world champion and instead of worrying about remaining there he is determined to enjoy the experience no matter how temporary it is. "I've come with the same cavalier

attitude I had last year," he said, "and if it happens again it happens, but if it doesn't it'll still have been a great year."

There are many sportsmen who proclaim to being relaxed who act on the field of play as if they are trying to get a part as *The Rex in Jurassic Park*, but Doherty is not one of them. That was evident in his second frame yesterday.

Doherty was just launching himself into a break when a disturbance broke out in the crowd. A silver-haired man,

who was probably as sober as a judge but gave the impression he could give newts a lesson in drinking, suddenly got up and, seemingly oblivious to the chaos he was causing, tripped over the people next to him.

Colin Montgomerie would have given him a stare worthy of Medusa if someone had done that while he was over a putt, while Seve Ballesteros would still be rotting in jail for his retribution, but Doherty merely broke off from his stroke, looked up and smiled at

the incongruity of the situation. There is only a first prize of £220,000 at stake, after all.

"I'm not playing as well as last year," Doherty said. "I've struggled in all three games, performing only in patches. But I feel more complete this year than I have in previous seasons even if I'm not firing on all cylinders. In different ways I am better. I'm tougher, harder to beat."

"Getting through that pain barrier last year is important. You've won on the big stage; you know it's there and you just have to wait for it to come out."

It emerged with a flourish yesterday, Doherty beginning with a break of 42 and 45 for the first frame and then winning safety exchanges for a 3-1 lead. The fifth frames and eighth frames were pivotal, however, as Williams missed chances to seal them - and the champion swooped.

In the former Doherty had to clear the colons to take it to a re-spotted black, which he pointed when Williams went for glory with a long shot and the latter

was sealed with two snookers and a break of 25 after the challenger missed a relatively easy yellow into a corner pocket. It will be a long way back for the man from Cwm, Wales, now.

"To use an old cliché," Doherty said. "I'm taking each session as it comes. There's still an awfully long way to go in the match, and Mark is a dangerous opponent, but naturally I'm delighted with the start I've made."

Nevertheless, Williams will

have been glad to meet an opponent who did not get up his

nose quite like Peter Ebdon did in the quarter-finals. "A pain in the neck" was among the descriptions he used for his beaten opponent, because he objected to the over-enthusiastic celebrations when he won an early tight frame.

"I laughed when he did that," Williams said. "I couldn't see why you'd react like that at that stage. He was so slow in the first session it was boring and some of the crowd walked out."

Christmas cards are smiley to be exchanged.

Shearer: 'I did not kick Neil Lennon'

Football

By Adam Szczerba

ALAN SHEARER, the England captain, yesterday attempted to play down the latest incident in a season dogged by controversy by insisting that he did not intend to kick Leicester City's Neil Lennon in the face during Wednesday night's goalless draw with Newcastle United, despite television evidence to the contrary.

However, with less than six weeks to go to the start of the World Cup, questions are inevitably being asked about Shearer's frame of mind as he fights to ensure Newcastle United's Premiership survival while gearing himself up for the biggest test of his life in France.

Shearer escaped immediate punishment at Filbert Street as referee Martin Bodenham and his assistant apparently missed the touchline fracas, but Shearer may still face disciplinary action by the Football Association. Any suspension would not be enforceable for two weeks, so unless a ban is imposed tomorrow Shearer will still be eligible for the FA Cup final between Newcastle and Arsenal on 16 May.

"We're waiting to receive the match official's report before we decide what to do," the FA spokesman, Steve Double, said. "At this stage what course of action we take is totally dependent on that." The referee seems unlikely to report an incident over which he took no action, but despite the spokesman's comments, the FA is still entitled to react to video evidence.

"I have now seen the television pictures of the incident and

I am amazed how bad it looks by comparison to what actually happened," Shearer said yesterday. "I was brought down by Neil Lennon over by the touchline and we both fell clumsy. As I tried to get to my feet I had to really tug my left foot free and the momentum of doing this looked on television like a kick.

"It certainly wasn't and the fact that Neil is virtually unmarked confirms this. If I did accidentally catch him, I certainly did not mean to. I would never try and deliberately hurt a fellow professional."

Shearer has been beset by problems on and off the field during a season in which his model-professional "Mary Poppins" image has gradually given way to a more cynical and churlish approach. "I don't care whether you are Alan Shearer, or The Pope, you don't do things like that," the Leicester manager, Martin O'Neill, said after Wednesday's game.

His Newcastle counterpart, Kenny Dalglish, defended his £15m striker. "The two of them just fell. Lennon pulled him, Shearer swung round and the momentum took him over. There was no malice, no intent as far as I know. I've never seen him do anything to deliberately hurt or injure a player. He is competitive, but not like that."

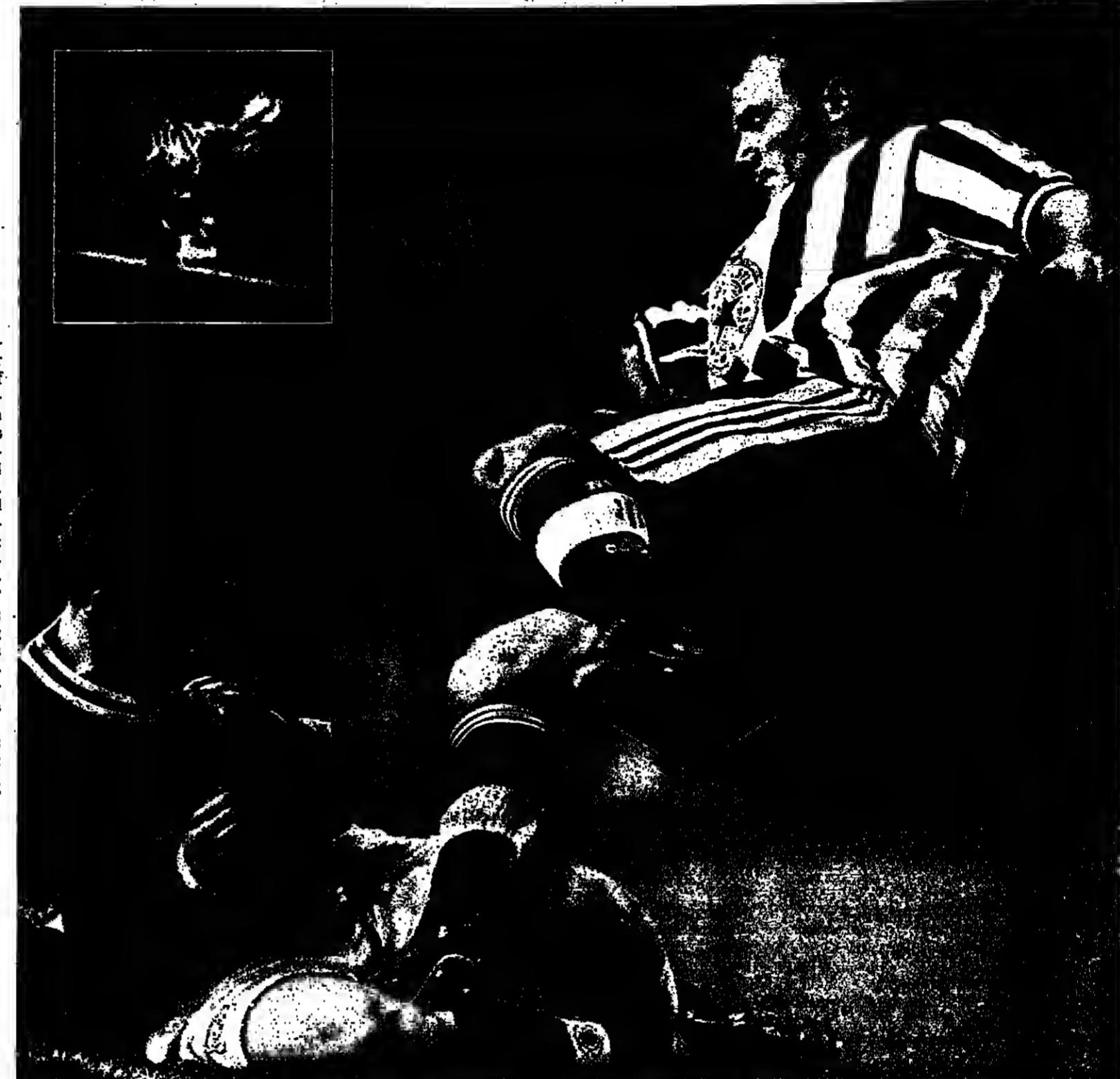
However, last Saturday, Shearer was accused by Tottenham's David Ginola of setting out persistently foul the former Newcastle winger in the relegation match at White Hart Lane, and yesterday the Spurs manager, Christian Gross, claimed Shearer had broken the nose of Tottenham's Ramon Vega with his elbow in the second minute of the game.

Loveable Arsenal, page 30

In between times there was an alleged punch-up with his own team-mate Keith Gillespie outside a Dublin pub, but Shearer returned to England duty last month with two goals against Portugal at Wembley, underlining his importance to the side.

England supporters will be hoping that Shearer's renowned single-mindedness will enable him to ignore distractions. Glenn Hoddle will be hoping so too.

Loveable Arsenal, page 30



A video camera (top left) captures Alan Shearer's controversial collision with Neil Lennon at Filbert Street on Wednesday night. The England captain, despite apparent evidence to the contrary, denies kicking the Leicester player.

Photograph: Raymonds

Bergkamp in battle to be fit for Cup final

By Mark Burton

DENNIS BERGKAMP could be out until the FA Cup final because of his hamstring trouble - but the Dutchman's loss looks like being Ian Wright's gain.

Bergkamp has already been having ice treatment on the injury. Arsenal's manager, Arsene Wenger, said in a couple of days' time it should be easier to judge if the Dutchman, who

picked up the problem by over-stretching during Wednesday's victory over Derby, has a chance of being fit in time to face Newcastle on 16 May.

Wright, out for four months

out with a similar injury, is

gearing up to make his return

to action against Everton on Sunday, when Arsenal's could clinch the Premiership title. If the club's record-breaking striker is given the chance to add to his 12 goals in nine previous games against the Merseysiders, it would provide a boost to his chance of going to the World Cup finals with England.

Gianfranco Zola could miss Chelsea's European Cup-Winners' Cup final against Stuttgart in Stockholm on 13 May. The striker is in his native Italy hoping a trusted medical specialist can make him fit in time for the final, after he damaged a groin muscle during last Saturday's 4-1 win over Liverpool.

Bryan Robson wants to bring

Stuart Ripley home to Middlesbrough from Blackburn in a £1.5m summer transfer. Ripley has dropped out of Blackburn's first team, having earlier been in the England squad.

Steve McManaman is to be left out of Liverpool's team for the first time this season when they play West Ham at Anfield on Saturday, because of a niggling ankle problem.

Shane Nicholson is to appeal against his sacking by West Bromwich following his admission that he had been a frequent user of amphetamines for several years. On Tuesday, Nicholson was ordered by the Football Association to attend a rehabilitation programme.

The experts who've been forecasting the future for 20 years

Read the June issue for indepth information on the fastest PCs - 333MHz comparative tests, first looks at 400MHz and the new Pentium II notebooks. PLUS:

- 3 FREE CD ROMS
- Exclusive 'Kick off to the World Cup' software
- Software reviews: Desk Top Publishing and Accounting packages

• PLUS a special World Cup feature

Personal Computer World delivers the expert opinion you can trust.

ONLY £2.99

AT NEWSAGENTS NOW

www.pew.co.uk

CARRY'S MORE WEIGHT THAN ANY OTHER COMPUTER

Walker leaves Carrow Road

MIKE WALKER was a sad man after his second spell in charge at Norwich City came to an end yesterday.

The former Everton manager left the struggling First Division club, which he once took into Europe, by "mutual consent" according to the board of directors - but Walker implied he had been sacked.

Norwich, who are 16th in the table, ended their relegation fears by recording 5-0 victories in their last two home games, but before that they had gone 14 games without a win.

Walker, who returned to Carrow Road in June 1996 following his first successful spell at the club, still stood by his record. "I am bitterly disappointed, to say the least," he said. "They have decided to make a decision which is their prerogative and, at the end of the day, that's the way it is. I think I have worked hard under trying circumstances this year, but the decision has been made.

Whoever comes in is going to be a reasonably lucky man."

The Canaries' vice-chairman, Roger Murby, claimed

Walker had gone now to give the club plenty of time to find a replacement who could take them back to the Premiership.

"We chose this timeline the earliest possible time, to give ourselves the best possible chance of setting out with the right recruitment policy," he said. "We want to deliver the right manager able to deliver our number one objective - the Premiership."

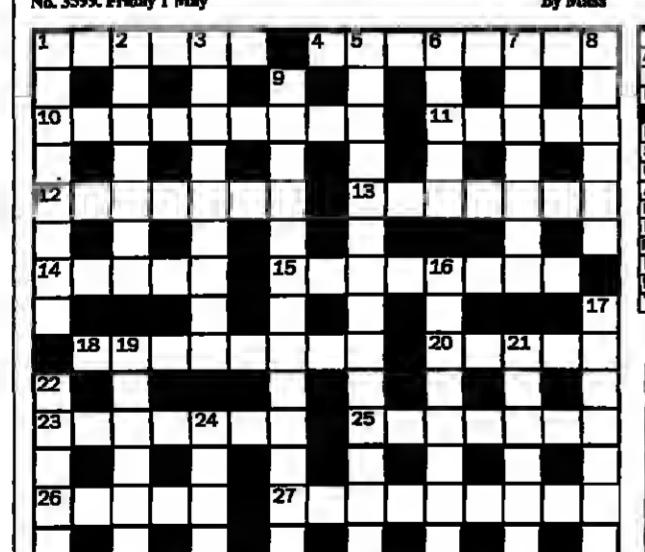
The assistant manager, John Paulkner, will take charge of team affairs for their final game against Reading on Sunday.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3593, Friday 1 May

By Mass

Thursday's solution



ACROSS

- 1 Damage excellent unit (6)
- 4 Clear-cut remedy (8)
- 10 Prompt has copy covering beginner in theatre (9)
- 11 Fenced with the Parisian in protective wear (5)
- 12 Revolutionary piece gets spoken about (7)
- 13 Available now, or forthcoming? (2,5)
- 14 Shakespeare naturally provides for theatre (5)
- 15 Devilish mate, sacrificing queen, is hard to follow (8)
- 18 Last entertainer's imbued with wagging mind (8)
- 20 Most of spread includes joint and drink (5);

DOWN

- 1 False diamond is form of alloy (8)
- 2 Easily broken down by real FBI grilling (7)
- 3 Pursue wagon turning up into walled area (9)
- 5 He'll be swearing next! (9,5)
- 6 Better bridge players will make points (5)
- 7 Issues absorbing the European academics (7)
- 8 A touching individual (6)
- 9 The kind of listener associated with 'The Ring' (11,3)
- 16 A period including Eastern State's decline (9)
- 17 Mow down (and stack) a field of hay, perhaps (8)
- 18 Bees arranged by treddy parties (7)
- 19 Hearten a revolutionary with unqualified rising (5,2)
- 21 Pursue wagon turning up into walled area (9)
- 22 English learner entering stiff exam (6)
- 24 Game opener's out, getting top edge (5)



Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford

Book issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 640370. Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office

Friday 1 May 1998

Regulated by the Post Office

مكتبة من الأصل